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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraq Seeks To Postpone May Arab League Meeting *[MENA]* 1
Arab League Delegate Criticizes Recent Meeting *[KUNA]* 1
Iraqi Opposition To Hold Cairo Conference in May *[MENA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Central Committee Weighs Reply to U.S. *[MAP]* 2
Fatah-Uprising Statement on Operation Cited *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 2
PNC Representation Committee To Be Enlarged *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 2
'Arafat Receives Egyptian Delegation in Libya *[JANA]* 2

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Paper Views Nuclear Cooperation With PRC *[APS]* 3
Portuguese Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit *[Algiers Radio]* 3
Social Democratic Groups, Salvation Front Merge *[Algiers Radio]* 3
Civil Service Union on Government Agreement *[Algiers Radio]* 4

Egypt

French Foreign Minister Discusses Mideast Peace 4
Dumas, 'Abd-al-Majid on Talks *[MENA]* 4
Comments on Talks With 'Arafat *[Cairo Radio]* 5
Holds News Conference *[MENA]* 5
Comments on Talks With Mubarak *[Cairo Radio]* 6
Dumas Departs 23 Apr *[MENA]* 6
Mubarak: No Increase in Price of Basic Goods *[Cairo Radio]* 6

Libya

Arab Stand Urged To Restore Iraqi Sovereignty *[Tripoli International]* 7
Al-Kharrubi, 'Aziz Discuss Regional Issues *[JNA]* 7
French Foreign Minister Meets Al-Qadhdhafi *[Paris Radio]* 7
Comments on Visit *[JANA]* 7
Further Comment on Visit *[Tripoli Radio]* 8
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Egyptian Party Officials *[Tripoli International]* 8
Somali Prime Minister Arrives in Libya *[Tripoli International]* 8

Sudan

Report on Joint Committee With CAR Endorsed *[Omdurman Radio]* 8

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Baker on Kuwait's Commitment to Human Rights *[Riyadh TV]* 9

Saudi Arabia

Joint Forces Commander Hails Arab Unity
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 19 Apr] 9
Commentary on Saudi Stand on Palestinian Issue *[SPA]* 9
King Fahd, UAE President Hold Meeting *[SPA]* 10

IRAQ

Baghdad, Kurds Consider International Guarantees *[AFP]* 11
Spokesman Hails Turkish Party Remarks on Kurds *[INA]* 11
Islamic Leader Denounces U.S.; Urges Saddam Ouster *[Tehran Radio]* 12
U.S. Congress Bill on War Crime Trials Criticized *[INA]* 12
AL-JUMHURIYAH Claims U.S. Waged 'Dirty War' *[INA]* 12
Paper Denounces Dispatch of U.S Aircraft Carrier *[INA]* 13
RCC Decision on Confiscating Land Confirmed *[Baghdad Radio]* 13

ISRAEL

Shamir on Baker Soviet Trip, Security Interests *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
Shamir, Levi, Arens Agree on Responses to Baker *[Jerusalem TV]* 14
Sharon: Territory for Peace Unacceptable *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
Likud Opposition to Conference Growing *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Government 'Fears' U.S.-Soviet Coordination *[DAVAR 24 Apr]* 15
Palestinian Activists Oppose PLO on Conference *[Jerusalem TV]* 16
Shamir Seen Leading Baker Efforts to Dead End *[AL-QUDS 22 Apr]* 16
Further Reportage on Territories Settlements 16
Activists Say Only 3 Families in Revava *[THE JERUSALEM POST 21 Apr]* 16
MK Says Shamir Approved Revava *[HA'ARETZ 22 Apr]* 16
Arens: Revava 'Fully Authorized' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
'Senior Sources:' Talmon Not Approved *[DAVAR 24 Apr]* 17
West Bank Settlements Expanding *[Jerusalem TV]* 17
Press Access Reinstated *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 18
Violence, Land Expropriations *[HA'ARETZ 21 Apr]* 18
Journalist Detained; Incidents Detailed *[HA'ARETZ 22 Apr]* 19
Peace Said 'Historical Responsibility' of All *[Jerusalem International]* 19
Soviet Diplomat Speaks of Resuming Relations *[MA'ARIV 24 Apr]* 20
Romanian Health Minister Arrives 21 Apr *[THE JERUSALEM POST 22 Apr]* 20

JORDAN

Food, Medicine, Industrial Goods To Go to Iraq *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 24 Apr]* 21
Baker Tour Failure Seen Unless Israel Pressured *[AL-DUSTUR 23 Apr]* 21
Authorities Lift Ban on Sale of Egyptian Papers *[WAKH]* 21

LEBANON

Dallul on Disarming Militias, Israeli Withdrawal *[Damascus Radio]* 22
Meets With FRC Delegation *[Beirut Radio]* 22
Response to Cabinet Decision on Militias 22
PNSF, PFLP Support Decision *[Beirut Radio]* 22
Karami Denies Problems With Palestinians *[Beirut Radio]* 22
Palestinians Transport Weapons to Al-Biqa' *[VOL]* 22
Defense Minister Returns From Damascus *[Beirut Radio]* 23
Al-Tufayli on Resistance, Iranian Guards *[VOL]* 23
Hizballah Statement on Arrests *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 23
Fighting Breaks Out in 'Ayn Al-Hulwah Camp *[VOL]* 23

SYRIA

Baker Arrives, Delivers Message From Bush *[Damascus TV]* 24
Meets With Al-Asad *[SANA]* 24
Gives News Conference *[Damascus Radio]* 24
Iranian Minister Arrives For Trade Talks *[SANA]* 24
Lebanese Ministers Cited on Syrian Assistance *[Damascus Radio]* 24
Paper Says Israel 'True Enemy of Peace' *[Damascus Radio]* 25
Minister of Interior Meets Kazakh Official *[SANA]* 25

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

More on Scud Attack; Kabul Troops Flee Jalalabad *[Islamabad Radio]* 26
Government Protests Pakistani Overflight *[Kabul Radio]* 26
Military Captures Two Pakistani 'Spies' *[Kabul Radio]* 26
Decree Issued on Assisting Citizens' Return *[Kabul Radio]* 26

Bangladesh

Premier's Motorcade Attacked; No Injuries *[AFP]* 26
Talks With India on Border, Water Sharing *[Dhaka Radio]* 27
Soviet Ambassador Predicts Closer Ties *[AFP]* 27
PRC To Help Develop Energy, Coal Mining *[Dhaka Radio]* 27

India

Further Reportage on Situation in Punjab, Assam 27
Official Hints at Election Postponement *[Delhi Radio]* 27
Assam Strike Affects 'Normal Life' *[Delhi Radio]* 28
BJP Leader on Party Election Stand *[Delhi Radio]* 28
Shekhar: Government Prepared To Help *[Delhi Radio]* 28
Law Minister Discusses Elections Dates *[Delhi Radio]* 28
Government Recommends Jun Polls *[Delhi Radio]* 28
Akali Dal Faction To Run *[Delhi Radio]* 29
Commission Announces Poll Dates *[Delhi Radio]* 29
Gandhi Files Nomination for Lok Sabha Seat *[Delhi Radio]* 29
President Leaves for Vietnam, Philippines *[Delhi Radio]* 29
Bomb Explodes Near Home of Uttar Pradesh Chief *[Delhi Radio]* 29
10,000 Shiite Muslims Hold Anti-Saddam Rally *[AFP]* 29
Air Force MiG-21 Explodes in Midair *[AFP]* 30
Indefinite Curfew Clamped in Baroda City *[Delhi Radio]* 30
Spokesman Decries Pakistan's 'False Propaganda' *[Delhi Radio]* 30
Ghana Seeks Help in Agriculture, Cooperation *[Delhi Radio]* 30

Iran

Chief Justice Calls for Saddam Trial *[IRNA]* 31
Deputy Khalkhali Addresses Majles 23 Apr *[Tehran Radio]* 31
More on Session *[Tehran Radio]* 32
Further Reportage on Iraqi Refugee Situation 32
International Effort Urged *[IRNA]* 32
International Response Criticized *[Tehran Radio]* 32
EC Delegation Arrives *[IRNA]* 33
Security Council on Situation *[Tehran Radio]* 33
Status in Dezful Reviewed *[Tehran Radio]* 33
'Catastrophe' Warned *[Tehran Radio]* 33
Commentary Criticizes Silence Over Southern Iraq *[Tehran International]* 33
Official Condemns U.S. Moves in North Iraq *[IRNA]* 34
KEYHAN HAVA'I Comments on Cooper Release *[10 Apr]* 34
Interior Minister on Merger of Security Forces *[Tehran Radio]* 35

Move To Impeach Education Minister Criticized *[IRNA]* 36
Timing Questioned *[IRNA]* 36
UN Official Arrives for Talks on Afghan Problem *[Tehran Radio]* 37
Meets With Deputy Minister *[Tehran Radio]* 37
Khamene'i Addresses Cultural Attaches *[Tehran TV]* 37
Issues Guidelines *[Tehran Radio]* 37
President Receives Nigerian Petroleum Minister *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Predicts Increased Oil Production *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Economic Statistics for 1989-90 Reviewed *[IRNA]* 39

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

82,000 Security Personnel Assigned To Election *[AFP]* 40
Communist-Instigated Election Violence Reported *[AFP]* 40
Former Minister Arrested After Factions Clash *[AFP]* 41
Activists Demand Minister's Resignation *[AFP]* 41
NC Chief: Attempts Afoot To Undermine Polls *[AFP]* 41

Pakistan

Kashmir Issue To Be on UNGA Session's Agenda *[Islamabad Radio]* 42
Sharif Reaffirms Stand, Support *[Islamabad Radio]* 42
European Parliament Decision Lauded *[Islamabad Radio]* 42
'Double Standards' Seen in U.S. Nuclear Concerns *[DAWN 20 Apr]* 42
Gorbachev Asia-Pacific Forum Idea Too 'Selective' *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 23 Apr]* 43
Officials Reject Kidnappers' Demand for Ransom *[Tokyo KYODO]* 43

Sri Lanka

Operations, Plans Against LTTE Reported *[Colombo International]* 43
Over 1,000 'Terrorists' Killed in North, East *[Colombo International]* 44
LTTE Said Linked to Colombian Drug Cartels *[Colombo International]* 44

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraq Seeks To Postpone May Arab League Meeting

NC2404102391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports in its Wednesday edition that all Arab countries except Iraq have agreed to hold an Arab League Council meeting on 15 May. Iraq has requested that the meeting be postponed until June. The paper adds that the Arab states have unanimously agreed to convene an Arab League Council meeting at the permanent representatives' level on 30 April.

The paper also says that the State of Qatar has agreed to back the nomination of Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to the post of Arab League secrtary general. The number of Arab states backing Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's nomination is now 14—that is, two-thirds of the 21 members—thereby rendering the nomination legal in accordance with the Arab League's Charter.

Arab League Delegate Criticizes Recent Meeting

LD1704154791 London KUNA in Arabic 1235 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] London, 17 Apr (KUNA)—Ambassador 'Abd-al-Muhsin al- Ji'an, the Kuwaiti delegate to the Arab League, has criticized the recent meeting of the League Council in Cairo, saying that it has ignored the "disruption" caused to the Arab nation and focussed attention on routine subjects, "a matter that confirms that it does feel responsibility".

Mr. al-Ji'an said this to the 'SAWT AL-KUWAIT' newspaper, today, before leaving the Egyptian capital and returning to Kuwait to consult with Kuwaiti officials, in preparation for the resumption of the league's council on 30 April 1991.

He said that the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait "was considered as a full violation of the charter of the league, which rejects any attempt to change regimes by force, and rejects force as a means of solving disputes. Instead, it supports peaceful means". He added:

"It is strange that all these violations of the charter of the Arab League should take place, while the institution itself remains silent. What is more strange is that some Arab states that had signed the charter collude in its violation, and support aggression and occupation, and fail to defend the charter that they had signed. On the contrary, they have supported the violation of the charter".

He said:

"But our only consolation in this is that the Arab states that had stood on the side of the charter, and against the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait were a majority both in number and in the representation of their peoples. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Al-Ji'an pointed out that the Arab league meeting's concentration on the discussion of routine issues without real substance and its disregard of the disruption which has taken place within the Arab nation represent a lack of sense of responsibility which no Arab can accept.

Regarding what is being said by some of the Damascus accord as being a consecration of regionalism, the Kuwaiti diplomat said: "The Damascus accord, the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council], and the Arab Maghreb Union are not regional groups, but steps on the road of comprehensive Arab action." He pointed out that they are based "on Article 9 of the Arab League Charter which calls on the Arab countries to establish close cooperation among themselves for the sake of bolstering joint Arab Action."

Regarding the best way to heal Arab wounds caused by the crisis of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, Ambassador al-Ji'an said: "We must first abandon the traditional Arab saying after every crisis, 'May God pardon what has happened'."

He added: "We must stop embraching and kissing each other when our hearts harbor something different. We must stop this because we are going through a stage which demands frankness and realism and so we may can face the facts and resolve them and deal seriously with current problems.

He affirmed: "We will lose much if we continue with our old ways, and the Arab League will become an ineffective symbol in the process of joint Arab action."

Iraqi Opposition To Hold Cairo Conference in May

NC2404094791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA)—The Cairo newspaper AL-AKHBAR reports in today's edition that the Iraqi opposition, the National Reconciliation Group [jama'at alwifaq alwatani], will hold a meeting in Cairo in May. The group said all the Iraqi national and democratic forces and currents in Syria, Egypt, the Gulf countries, Europe, and the United States will be represented.

Salah al-'Ali, head of the Iraqi opposition delegation currently visiting Cairo, told AL-AKHBAR that the delegation will hold contacts with the Egyptian officials so that Egypt can host the conference. He added that he will also hold contacts with the Iraqi parties in Egypt to coordinate their positions and close their ranks in a bid to reach common political views.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Central Committee Weighs Reply to U.S.

LD2304163191 Rabat MAP in English 1319 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tunis, Apr. 23 (MAP)—The Palestinian Central Committee (PCC) which opened its proceedings here Sunday under the chairmanship of Palestinian president and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat continued Monday in camera discussion of the items on its agenda.

In an opening address, President Yasir 'Arafat traced the Palestinian past action since the convening of the last PCC session six months ago, recalling the U.S.-Israeli attempts "to deprive the Palestinian people from exercising its national rights and its sovereignty on its homeland".

While disclosing that the Palestinian revolution is presently going through a "critical" phase, Yasir 'Arafat stressed the Palestinian people's refusal of all U.S. conditions undermining its national, inalienable claims.

The Palestinian leader denounced the "manoeuvres" of the U.S. secretary of state which attempt to propose to the Israeli premier a list of ten persons to engage in discussions on behalf of the Palestinian people, while rejecting the idea of "internal autonomy" which he qualified as a "new slavery".

The Palestinian president was keen on paying tribute to the "valuable role" of the Arab Maghreb Union member countries in support of the Palestinian people.

The current PCC ordinary session is designed to devise a comprehensive strategy in the light of the U.S. proposed peace plan.

Fatah-Uprising Statement on Operation Cited

JN2304181391 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] The Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah [-the Uprising,] said in a military communique that the heroic leader martyr Majid Abu-Sharar group, of the al-Aqsa martyrs unit, carried out the Uyun Qarah operation inside Palestine at dawn yesterday. After succeeding in crossing what the enemy and its agents call the border strip in southern Lebanon and the security fence, the group began its military mission by a sudden attack on enemy soldiers and vehicles near the Zionist settlement of Dan in northern Palestine.

In the courageous battle that ensued, the heroic revolutionaries used rockets, machine guns, and hand grenades, killing or wounding dozens of enemy personnel and forcing the Zionist enemy command to use helicopters and fighter planes in the battle, as the Zionist military spokesman himself admitted.

Also according to the enemy military statement yesterday morning, two heroes of the valiant group watered the soil of northern Palestine with their virtuous blood in this heroic battle.

In a follow-up statement today, Fatah movement mourned its two heroic martyrs: Lieutenant Jamal Hamad Musa al-Zir, born in Dura, Hebron in 1966, and First Sergeant Fu'ad Muhammad Ahmad al-Suri, born in 1973 in 'Ayn al-Nil, originally from Sa'ir village, Hebron. The movement pledged to the two martyrs that it will continue the revolution until victory.

PNC Representation Committee To Be Enlarged

JN2304182291 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] The PLO Central Council has continued the meetings it began in Tunis Sunday. The meetings were scheduled to end last night, but this was not possible because many people wanted to speak. Mr. Khalid al-Hasan proposed the formation of a provisional Palestinian government outside the framework of the PLO, but this was not accepted by the council members. Mr. al-Hasan's proposal notes the need for the government to comprise Palestinian figures from the West Bank and Gaza and from outside the occupied territories.

The most important decision made by the Central Council in its session last night was to increase members of the committee entrusted to reconsider representation in the Palestine National Council so that all Palestinian factions can join the council and the PLO Executive Committee.

'Arafat Receives Egyptian Delegation in Libya

LD2404092791 Tripoli JANA in English 0812 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr (April) 24, JANA-Arab Maghreb Union Pool—President Yasir 'Arafat of Palestine who left yesterday following a working visit to Great Jamahiriyah, met the delegation from the Egyptian Arab Solidarity Committee taking part in the activities of the Libyan Arab-Egyptian week of brotherhood and solidarity being held in the land of Great Jamahiriyah from 21-28 of this month.

During this meeting they reviewed the development of the current Arab situation following the Kuwait crisis and the support the U.S. Administration is extending to the Zionist enemy.

Algeria

Paper Views Nuclear Cooperation With PRC

LD2304113591 Algiers APS in English 1020 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Algiers, 23 Apr (APS)—Afternoon daily HORIZON devotes a comment titled "Outbiddings" upon the Algero-Chinese cooperation in the nuclear field. It particularly tackles the information that have been published some days ago by THE WASHINGTON TIMES. It writes for instance "The very serious WASHINGTON POST initiates the debate upon this question by multiplying questions."

While recalling that Algeria has already given an explanation through a high official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs upon the existence of an Algero-Chinese peaceful nuclear cooperation, HORIZON notes that this mediatic campaign arouses a series of interrogations concerning Algeria.

We do have the right to ask questions upon the USA's intentions towards our country, writes the daily, adding not as AL-BAYAN paper wrote "the very day when Morocco signed an accord ('on) nuclear cooperation with France because Algerians are taking up again with the complex of besieged fortress they developed in 1975/1977 under Boumedienne's era" but simply because the Algerian position in the Gulf War was not admitted either by the USA and allied countries.

It happens, adds the daily, that this attitude of refusing Iraqi capabilities' destruction, supporting the Palestinian people's right to an independant state, a unified, strong and sovereign Maghreb, seems to refute the new international order such as the White House defined it.

Furthermore, HORIZON writes, "Algeria does have the right to choose its partners to develop the research around an energy asked someday to substitute for classical energies. The afternoon daily concluded "southern countries are directly threatened and they should collectively negotiate the terms [no closing quotation marks as received] adding "Algeria is not the sole concerned, it is all the Maghreb that should define itself far from any political outbidding."

Portuguese Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

LD2304214891 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Within the framework of cooperation Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro, who arrived on a visit to Algeria this morning, held a news conference this afternoon at El-Mithaq Hotel. Our colleague, Nacira Bouzid, attended this news conference and compiled the following report for us:

During this news conference the Portuguese foreign minister talked about a number of issues concerning the EEC and Maghreb states, particularly Algeria, and also Algerian-Portuguese relations, considering that Portugal will be chairman of the EEC next year.

Regarding the reason for his visit to Algeria, he said:

[Begin Pinheiro recording in French followed by Arabic translation] The Portuguese chairmanship of the EEC believes that relations between the EEC and Maghreb states should be strong. One should not waste too much time in this connection.

Second, it is important to acquaint oneself with the stance of the various states in the region, particularly Algeria, regarding international matters, particularly the current issues of the Gulf and the Middle East.

In conclusion, we seized this opportunity to give a prominent appraisal of our bilateral relations and to stress our desire to improve these relations on the political or economic or cultural levels. In this connection we have agreed to send a delegation of Portuguese businessmen to Algeria soon. Afterward, we will set up a joint economic Algerian-Portuguese committee in Lisbon; and maybe the Algerian foreign minister will visit Portugal. We believe that this could represent an impetus for enhancing ties between the two countries. [end recording]

The visit of the Portuguese foreign minister to our country is part of a tour that takes him to the Arab Maghreb Union states. Following his arrival, he held talks with Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali in the presence of cadres from the Foreign Ministries of the two countries.

Social Democratic Groups, Salvation Front Merge

LD2304191491 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Excerpt] A group of members of the Social Democratic Party [PSD] in Khenchela resigned and joined the National Salvation Front. Mr. Lacheghab Djamal, who is among those who resigned and a member of the national council of the National Salvation Front, gave the following reasons for the resignation:

[Begin Djamal recording] First, the PSD was the first political party to establish itself in Khenchela. We have declared our collective resignation from the PSD in six municipalities and completely withdrawn from that party and collectively joined the National Salvation Front. The reason for our resignations is that we do not believe that there should be 40 political parties. The small parties will one day become extinct. Therefore the initiative of the three formations, which the National Salvation Front consists of—namely the National Front for Renewal, the Democratic Muhsin Movement and the Democratic Youth Movement, Abdelkader Ben Moussa wing—was the right thing to do. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Civil Service Union on Government Agreement

LD2304193091 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] The independent national civil service union issued a statement after the meeting of its national bureau on 21 April. The statement commented on what it called the government's delay in implementing the promises given to (?SONAPAP) union. The statement also included that the national bureau denounced the statements given by the UGTA [Algerian General Workers Union] secretary general on the legitimacy of the representation of the Algerian workers. The statement says the independent civil service trade union does not belong to any political movement.

Colleague Mohsin Solimani met [word indistinct] member of the national council. He asked him about the position of the national civil service union toward the recent agreements between UGTA and the government.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified official] Everything that UGTA has obtained is welcome. This will benefit all workers in general, and everyone. There is nothing we do not accept. The government, however, should have talked to all unions. We live in a democracy and a multiparty system.

We say all workers are equal. No one is more important than others. There are different jobs, and there are different demands. This exists everywhere in the world.

[Solimani] What are the points you do not agree with? Is it, for example, the rate of increase in the allowances and salaries?

[Official] Look, what UGTA has brought forward was studied by the government. They would have been issues without the involvement of UGTA. This was under study. Because, if you look at the increase in the cost of living against what UGTA has delivered, you will get zero.

[Correspondent] In his last statement, the social affairs minister said the government thinks only one trade union represents the workers in Algeria.

[Official] This is the greatest danger in Algeria. The statement was strong. I think that the social affairs minister is one of the people committed to the multiparty system and democracy. This is all I can say.

[Correspondent] Is there contact and dialogue between you, or are there attempts and initiatives between you and the other unions, including UGTA?

[Official] We are here for dialogue with all nonpolitical trade union movements. We do not follow the line of the political initiatives.

[Correspondent] Are the other unions political?

[Official] My brother, Algerians have great political perception. I cannot judge this. We all have our opinions. I cannot accuse another trade union. I only hope that there will be unity between the unions, and not a break up of unions. [end recording]

Egypt

French Foreign Minister Discusses Mideast Peace

Dumas, 'Abd-al-Majid on Talks

NC2304153191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1347 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)—Speaking after a one-and-a-half-hour session of Egyptian-French talks, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said that he and Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, had reviewed bilateral relations and ways to promote economic cooperation.

He expressed pleasure at visiting Cairo and said he had held in-depth talks centering on the Gulf and efforts to promote peace in the Middle East.

He asserted his country's support for U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's efforts in the Middle East.

Dumas expressed the hope that the peace process will continue, because it is time for this issue to be seriously tackled. He also stressed the need to stop all violence in the interest of the peace process and of all parties.

He also noted he had discussed the situation in the Middle East yesterday with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat while in Libya.

He also announced his country's support for Lebanon's legitimate government.

Commenting on Egyptian-French relations, Dumas affirmed France's support for Egypt's economic reform efforts. He said his country supports Egypt's stand at the (?negotiations) with the IMF and the Paris Club, and added that France will hold contacts with Paris Club member states to reach agreement on reducing Egypt's debts.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that Egypt appreciates the French stand in supporting Egypt in its talks with the IMF and the World Bank, and it also appreciates France's special efforts to support Egypt in the Paris Club.

Concluding his statement, 'Abd-al-Majid said a proposal to reduce Egypt's debts by 50 percent will be submitted to the Paris Club.

Comments on Talks With 'Arafat

NC2304162991 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Following a one-and-a-half hour session of talks with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said they had discussed developments in the Gulf region and the Middle East and bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

The French foreign minister said he and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid discussed the situation in the Gulf, peace efforts, and bilateral economic relations. [passage omitted]

Dumas said he met with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat in Libya to discuss U.S. proposals to advance the peace process. Dumas noted 'Arafat said he wanted to learn more details of these proposals and stressed the importance of a UN presence in peace negotiations.

The French foreign minister said that, regarding the Palestinians' representation in the peace negotiations, 'Arafat had said this point would be discussed with the representatives of the Palestinian people and with the Arab countries.

Dumas asserted his country's support for the U.S. proposals. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference

NC2304194591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1817 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)—At a news conference in Cairo tonight following talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Europe can use its ties with the Arab world and Israel to play a useful role in the Middle East peace process.

He noted that the goal is to hold an international peace conference in which the concerned Arab countries, Israel, the United States, the Soviet Union, and the Security Council may take part. Dumas then added that if that conference is not "international," it can be called a "regional conference," a "limited conference," or anything else.

Dumas, who held his news conference at the French Embassy in Cairo, said he exchanged views with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid on the peace process in the Middle East. He added that the views of the two sides were clearly identical regarding holding the international conference and on the need for European and UN representation at that conference. He noted that Palestinian representation at the conference is the most difficult issue.

Dumas said his talks with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid dealt with the regional situation after the Gulf war. He praised the spirit of resolve and determination with which Egyptian officials are working for peace in the region.

Dumas said Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid briefed him during talks today on the contents of the message President Mubarak sent to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, adding that the message reflects the attitude adopted by both Egypt and France regarding the international conference, which should pave the way to direct negotiations.

Dumas said he and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid also reviewed the situation in Lebanon, as well as bilateral relations, particularly in the cultural, financial, and trade fields.

Dumas emphasized the importance of his visit to Egypt. He said he did not want to delay visiting Egypt because it plays a leading role in a region facing difficult problems.

Concerning his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, in the Libyan capital last night, Dumas said 'Arafat had requested the meeting from Tunisia and then traveled to Tripoli especially to attend it.

Dumas said he and 'Arafat reviewed the Middle East peace process in light of the initiatives by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. He added: I explained France's position on this issue in light of recent statements by President Francois Mitterrand. Dumas said he and 'Arafat discussed the idea of the international conference and that 'Arafat underlined his commitment to that idea. Dumas said: I told 'Arafat such a conference should be held in a spirit of cooperation to reach satisfactory results. President 'Arafat then briefed me on the recent meetings of the Palestinian Central Council and expressed his gratitude to our country and his appreciation for the courageous position taken by President Francois Mitterrand.

As for 'Arafat's reaction to the idea of holding a limited conference, Dumas said that 'Arafat seemed to accept James Baker's proposal, but expressed concern over the form. Dumas said that 'Arafat asserted his commitment to the substance of the issue; namely, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and Palestinian representation in the talks. 'Arafat also referred to the UN Security Council resolutions regarding this.

Dumas reasserted that Europe wants to play a "reassuring" role for all parties concerned, explaining that France has a major part to play in this. He also stressed the need for Europe to participate fully in the peace process and not be limited to observer status, because it has a major role to play in achieving the peace it seeks for the Middle East.

The French foreign minister stressed the need to accelerate the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon so this country can regain its full sovereignty. He also called for finding an acceptable solution to the Michel 'Awn problem and transferring him to France.

Speaking about his visit to the region, he said he has visited Mauritania, Morocco, Libya, and Egypt so far and will be going on to Tunisia and Algeria in a few days.

On his visit to Libya, he said he held talks there with the Libyan foreign minister and also was received by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Surt, the Libyan revolution leader's hometown where he is spending time. He added he reviewed issues of common interest with Libyan officials, and he left these talks convinced the clouds that had marred relations between Libya and France have receded and that a new era has begun in bilateral relations.

Regarding France's stand on the Kurds in Iraq, Dumas expressed his country's concern over the developments there. He noted his country was the first to propose an initiative from the UN podium aimed at amending international law and that, in accordance with this, this dispatch of large-scale humanitarian aid in coordination with the United States and Britain was approved.

Concluding his news conference, Dumas stressed he will return to Egypt soon. He also underlined his country's full support for a reduction of Egypt's debts, adding that this issue will be discussed within the next few days. He also stressed the need to bolster cooperation between the two countries in the field of French language teaching, support for universities, and the publication of French-language books, as well as in the financial and commercial fields.

Comments on Talks With Mubarak

NC2404073891 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas at the Presidential Palace tonight. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the French ambassador to Cairo attended the meeting.

Dumas said that he and President Mubarak discussed many topics, including bilateral ties. Dumas added: I have told President Mubarak that France totally supports Egypt in various international forums, including the IMF and the Paris Club. We do so to help Egypt deal with its economic problems.

Dumas said that he and President Mubarak discussed the peace process, the Gulf region, James Baker's initiative, and the general configuration of a regional conference. He expressed his belief that a good opportunity currently exists to move toward peace in the region.

The foreign minister said France supports the U.S. initiative, but noted that some difficulties remain. Dumas said Egypt is a major country in the peace process, adding he hopes President Mubarak's efforts will be successful.

Dumas said he held talks yesterday with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Dumas said: I am here in Egypt today to discuss matters in more detail. I believe the Palestinians are serious about participating in the regional conference; however, there are obstacles and we must continue to discuss all related problems.

Responding to a question on whether Palestinian participation in the conference is an obstacle, Dumas said that was one of the issues he discussed today with President Mubarak. Dumas said he agreed with President Mubarak that the true representatives of the Palestinians should take part in the negotiations.

Answering a question on how to convince Israel of the importance of European participation in the conference, Dumas said: President Mubarak supports European participation in the peace process. Dumas said James Baker also supports European participation because of Europe's ties to Arab countries and Israel.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic in a similar report at 2107 GMT adds: "Dumas said that the ball is now in Israel's court, adding that Baker will insist on Europe's participation in the peace process because it will be beneficial."]

Dumas Departs 23 Apr

NC2404082291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas left Cairo for home tonight following a visit of several hours. During the visit, Mr. Dumas was received by President Husni Mubarak. Dumas also held talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, concerning the peace efforts in the Middle East.

Ambassador Sami Thabit, the Foreign Ministry's director of protocol, and French Ambassador to Cairo Alain Dejammet, accompanied Dumas to the airport.

Mubarak: No Increase in Price of Basic Goods

NC2104085691 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak attended several meetings at the National Democratic Party [NDP] Headquarters, including the meeting of the party's Economic Committee. That meeting was also attended by the speakers of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, the deputy prime ministers, the ministers, and a number of senior Egyptian financiers and economists.

Safwat al-Sharif, assistant secretary general of the NDP and information minister, said that the president's surprise visit was part of his excellency's constant desire to meet with leaders of political, popular, and executive action. He added that President Mubarak explained Egypt's economic difficulties of the past three years, noting that Egypt stopped servicing [paying interest on] its debts, loans, and military debts, which amounted to $90-$100 million every few months.

The president also explained the difficulties of the Egyptian economy in providing basic commodities. His excellency outlined Egypt's efforts to overcome these difficulties and praised the efforts of a number of Arab fraternal countries.

The president said that the talks with the IMF have been fruitful and achieved for Egypt conditions that no other country has achieved. These conditions will help reform Egypt's economy while taking into consideration its burdens. He added that the conditions with the IMF will bring about gradual economic reform. He also praised the stands of some Arab countries.

The president then explained the phase we are in, stressing its importance. He emphasized that the future will be defined by our success in economic reform after having succeeded in writing off the military debts and almost 30 percent of the civilian debts, which will reach almost 50 percent of the overall debt in two years. He noted that economic reform will enable Egypt gradually to reform the state budget and the balance of payments.

President Mubarak announced that the prices of basic and essential commodities will remain fixed in order to protect the broad base of the Egyptian people and achieve social justice.

On support for the private sector, the president said that the public and private sectors are equal before all the state organs.

At the meeting of the NDP political club, Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak explained the dimensions of the political and Arab situation. He also underlined his concern for the people with low incomes and his desire that prices not be tampered with. He also stressed that the reports about an increase in the prices of any of the main commodities are unfounded. He noted that the prices of bread, sugar, and oil will not be changed.

At his meeting with the NDP secretariat general, the president reviewed the working paper on the party's electoral system and called for an expanded meeting of the party leaders from all of the governorates to voice their opinions on this issue.

Libya

Arab Stand Urged To Restore Iraqi Sovereignty

LD2404124791

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic at 1155 GMT on 24 April carries an announcement, during Tariq 'Aziz's visit to Libya, which says: "Masses of our Arab nation. There are now questions looming in the air. Who gave the U.S. and Western forces permission to enter Arab lands and occupy the Iraqi lands? Who led the Arab nation into this new state of frustration, catastrophe, pain, and tragic collapse? Who gave the enemies this precious opportunity to bluster over the Arab land, loot its wealth, and occupy its lands?

"Masses of our Arab nation. If the Iraqi president had erred by occupying Kuwait, he has paid the price and has been driven out of Kuwait. What is happening today, however, is a new and different problem. It is a colonization of Iraq, which necessitates a serious collective confrontation by the Arab nation to restore to Iraq its sovereignty and its independence."

After the announcement, the radio broadcasts an Arab patriotic song: "We Are Here, Our Nation."

Al-Kharrubi, 'Aziz Discuss Regional Issues

JN2404133091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Apr (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met in Tripoli today with Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council. The discussion dealt with bilateral relations and developments in the Middle East.

Tariq 'Aziz arrived in Tripoli from Tunis yesterday.

French Foreign Minister Meets Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2504063591 Paris Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Tea in the Sirt desert. It was under canvas that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi received Roland Dumas yesterday evening. The French foreign minister and the Libyan head of state had a long discussion. Journalists were only present for the preliminaries. Ralph Pinto reports.

[Begin Pinto recording] [passage omitted] The impromptu Sirt meeting regards the relaunching of French-Libyan relations. The French foreign minister considers it a particular honor to be received by the leader of the Libyan revolution in his tent. It is his introduction to al-Qadhdhafi. [end recording]

Back in Tripoli, Roland Dumas met PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. It is the first meeting between the Palestinian leader and a European minister since the Gulf war. During the conflict the European community had criticized Yasir 'Arafat for his position, considered too favorable toward the Iraqi regime.

Comments on Visit

LD2504175491 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0920 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Apr (JANA)—Before leaving Tripoli International Airport, the French minister made a statement to a JANA correspondent in which he stressed that his visit to Libya was very important and positive, and had given him the opportunity to hold in-depth talks about international and regional issues, and also to talk

about the Palestinian situation, the Kuwait crisis, the Iraqi problem, and the peace settlement.

He added that he held lengthy talks about French-Libyan relations. He emphasized the joint wish to develop these relations, expressing his confidence in future bilateral relations. The French minister announced that the two sides have decided a number of intentions, which will be followed by resolutions aimed at consolidating bilateral relations. He stressed the importance of preserving political dialogue.

Further Comment on Visit

LD2304180691 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation has made a press statement on the visit of the French foreign minister. He stressed that the visit was successful and realized the objective of promoting bilateral relations. These relations have entered a new phase, and there exists a strong bilateral wish to think about the future in a definite and positive way. He pointed out that political consultations would continue between the Great Jamahiriyah and France, as well as bilateral cooperation, especially in the domains of oil, industry, and in other fields, in order to meet the common interests of the two countries.

He made it clear that there had been discussions on the situation prevailing in the Arab region and the Mediterranean, the Arab-Zionist conflict, the Kurdish question, and the problem of Iraq. In this respect, he stressed that the international legality was one, and could not be divided, and must be fully observed. Therefore, what was implemented during the Kuwait crisis must be carried out for the rest of the region's problems, starting with respect for the UN Charter, and relations between nations and peoples.

He further said that during these talks, the unity of Iraq was affirmed, and also the fact that we understood the tragedy facing the Kurds, which is of a human nature, but it is not an excuse to divide Iraq. It is very important to preserve the territorial integrity of Iraq for the sake of the region's security and peace. He underlined that the need was stressed to find peaceful solutions to all world problems.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Egyptian Party Officials

LD2404073291 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The brother leader of the revolution has received a delegation of Egyptian political parties which included representatives of the National Democratic Party, the Liberal [Ahrar] Party, the Labor [al-'Amal] Party, and al-Wafd Party, who are attending the meetings of the basic people's congresses. [passage omitted]

Somali Prime Minister Arrives in Libya

LD2304222591 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Somali Prime Minister Omar Arteh Ghalib and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. In a statement to JANA, Omar Arteh Ghalib praised the depth of brotherly relations which link the sons of the same Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Somalia.

Sudan

Report on Joint Committee With CAR Endorsed

EA2304112091 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Yesterday's ordinary session of the Council of Ministers, which was chaired by Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council and Council of Ministers, endorsed the report by the joint Sudan, Central African Republic [CAR] ministerial committee which met in Khartoum from 27 to 29 March under the chairmanship of the two countries' foreign ministers.

His Excellency 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, minister of foreign affairs and the government's acting spokesman, said in a press statement that the council had approved the results of these meetings, particularly concerning issues related to the Sudanese side, such as the launching of joint projects for clarifying border signs between the two countries; joint security and technical committees to combat illegal hunting; and cooperation in cultural and educational fields. The acting official spokesman revealed that within this framework a Sudanese school will be built in Bangui and that student and training scholarships will be earmarked for CAR citizens to study in Sudan; that there will be an adjustment to the list of the commercial goods, an agreement on which was signed between the two countries in 1969; and that the possibility of air and land links between the two countries will be studied. [passage omitted]

The acting government spokesman said that Sudan would pay its arrears to the OAU in the period fixed by the OAU secretary general.

Kuwait

Baker on Kuwait's Commitment to Human Rights

LD2304223491 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2012 GMT 23 Apr 91

[From the "Kuwait Message" program]

[Text] After his meeting with his highness the amir, Mr. Baker told journalists that the U.S. was convinced that Kuwait will respect democracy and human rights. He said that he was sure about Kuwait's determination to commit itself to democracy and to guarantee human rights. He added that his highness the amir, the heir apparent, and officials were extremely clear about this.

The U.S. secretary of state went on to say that Shaykh Jabir had stressed, in his address to the Kuwaiti people on 7 April, the importance of holding parliamentary elections in 1992. Baker also indicated that the U.S. will do all it can to ensure that the fires are put out as quickly as possible.

In reply to questions by journalists before he left the airport for Damascus, Baker said matters in Kuwait were improving. He added we have examined with the political leadership the possibility of establishing a U.S. base in Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia

Joint Forces Commander Hails Arab Unity

PM2304145091 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 19 Apr 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan Says in Kuwait: We Are Witnessing the Establishment of True Arab Unity"]

[Excerpts] Kuwait, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan, commander of the joint forces and the theater of operations, yesterday inspected the positions of the Saudi and Syrian Armed Forces that took part in the war to liberate Kuwait.

In a statement following his tour—on which he was accompanied by Major General Nadim Faris, commander of the Syrian forces; Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, commander of the Egyptian forces; and a number of military commanders of the Gulf Cooperation Council states—Lt. Gen. Khalid Bin-Sultan said: We are witnessing the start of true Arab unity. [passage omitted]

Asked whether U.S. forces would stay in Saudi Arabia, Prince Khalid reaffirmed Riyadh's position, rejecting the establishment of permanent U.S. bases on Saudi territory. He said: "I state this clearly: No." But he said that he saw no objection to the continued presence of a number of U.S. military personnel entrusted with implementing training and back-up programs in Saudi Arabia.

With regard to Saudi Arabia's purchase of more U.S. weapons in the future, he said: "Don't ask a military man what he wants. He wants everything."

Meanwhile, a Saudi official pointed to his country's wish for the friendly forces to stay in the Gulf until the formation of a Syrian-Egyptian unit that is currently being prepared to guarantee the region's security.

The official indicated that the Saudi forces will remain in Kuwait as long as Kuwait wishes them to do so.

Commentary on Saudi Stand on Palestinian Issue

LD2304183591 Riyadh SPA in English 1229 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Riyadh, April 23, SPA—The Palestinian question represents the cornerstone of the kingdom's domestic and foreign policies, wrote the political editor of the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY (SPA) in light of the current U.S. efforts seeking to bring about peace in the region.

Ever since its foundation at the hands of the late King 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the kingdom had been the lone Arab country shouldering the responsibility of the Palestinian question.

King 'Abd-al-'Aziz had been the only Arab leader to stand in the face of allies by the end of the Second World War to cry the injustice which had been done to the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular.

King 'Abd-al-'Aziz had stuck to his unwavering stand on the Palestinian issue and that had been clear during his meeting with U.S. President Roosevelt on Feb. 15, 1945 and the correspondence between them that followed their meeting.

Even after the passing away of King Fahd, the kingdom stand remained unchanged during the reigns of late Kings Sa'ud, Faysal and Khalid.

As for the stand of the current reign of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, history recorded with bright letters King Fahd's noble stands on the Palestinian question.

"I would like to mention that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is fully convinced that the comprehensive and just peace which all Arab countries look for and all peace-loving nations support can not be achieved without the Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories which Israel has occupied by force, including the Arab Jerusalem and

the restoration of all rights of the Palestinian people," said King Fahd in a speech on Nov. 29,1982.

King Fahd name has been linked to a peace initiative which has been known as "Fahd peace initiative" which the Saudi monarch presented to the Arab summit in Fes, Morocco.

With this initiative, King Fahd reaffirmed the Kingdom strong drive to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

King Fahd, UAE President Hold Meeting

LD2304225791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2109 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 23 Apr (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and his brother His Highness Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, held a meeting at the royal court of al-Salam palace this evening. [passage omitted]

Baghdad, Kurds Consider International Guarantees

NC2304182191 Paris AFP in English 1806 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, April 23 (AFP)—The Iraqi Government and representatives of the Kurdish opposition are examining the question of international guarantees for the future of Iraqi Kurdistan, an informed source said here Tuesday.

"The negotiators are at present pursuing their study of one or two points relating to the question of international guarantees on the autonomy of Kurdistan," the source said, declining to be named. He said any agreement between the government and Kurdish rebels depended on a settlement on the guarantees.

Representatives of the two main dissident groups, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK), have been holding negotiations with the government in Baghdad for the last 10 days.

The negotiations are based on a March 1970 accord granting autonomy to Iraqi Kurds, an agreement that has not been fully implemented. Kurdish rebels have insisted on international guarantees for any new agreement with Baghdad.

The Kurds are demanding a "new demarcation of the Kurdistan autonomous region, the granting of part of the state's central budget for the development of the region and the organisation of free (local) elections," the source said.

Iraqi Kurdistan has a 50-member Executive Council, and it also has a Legislative Council.

The region has a population of four million and comprises the three northern provinces of Irbil, Dahuk and al-Sulaymaniyah, although the Kurdish opposition also claims Karkuk.

"The government delegation has adopted a flexible stand in the negotiations," the source said.

The authorities and official media have imposed a news black-out on the negotiations, but Baghdad residents have in private expressed optimism.

(In Tehran, an informed Kurdish source has said the rebels were holding 'Izzat Ibrahim, the vice chairman of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council, and Defence Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan to pressure the government.)

(They were being detained near Irbil, according to the source, and would be held for the length of the negotiations.)

Spokesman Hails Turkish Party Remarks on Kurds

JN2404104391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0645 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Apr (INA)—A spokesman for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has praised statements by Bulent Ecevit, leader of the Turkish Democratic Left Party.

The spokesman considered Ecevit's remarks on current events and their possible future developments as fair, keen, and profound. He said an Iraqi-Turkish dialogue based on a concept like that of Ecevit's could lay a strong foundation for Iraqi-Turkish relations and for relations among Iraq's neighbors in general.

In an interview with the Turkish newspaper MILLIYET, Ecevit said that the safehaven that the United States intends to establish near the border under U.S. forces supervision and with Turkey's consent, is tantamount to establishing a state inside Iraqi territory. He said what the United States intends to do will undermine the freedom and independence not only of Iraqi territory but of Turkish territory as well.

The Turkish politician emphasized that such a state would be tied to the United States and under its direct control. He said such a thing will undermine the unity and independence of part of southern Turkish territory and will facilitate and increase acts of infiltration and sabotage within Turkish territory. He said the temporary housing areas will be an instrument to be used by the United States any time it wants to pressure not only Iraq but also Turkey and Iran. This situation will give the impression that Turkey is a U.S. tool in the Middle East, Ecevit said.

Ecevit described as very serious President Ozal's proposal to the U.S. President on joint strategic action and cooperation between the two countries and his assumption that the establishment of a temporary housing area is a step toward joint action. Ecevit criticized Ozal's assumption of the Turkish parliament's wide powers during the Gulf crisis. He said the Security Council and America rejected British proposals similar to Ozal's and that the Security Council set the condition that Iraq's agreement should be obtained before the British proposals were accepted.

In his interview with the newspaper MILLIYET, Ecevit said that he informed the Iraqi ambassador in Ankara of the Democratic Left Party's views on this issue.

Asked whether Iraq was willing to hold dialogue and discussions to solve the "refugee" problem, Ecevit said that Iraq actually wants this, as evidenced by the Iraqi Government's insistence on sending Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz on a visit to Turkey for talks with Turkish officials. Ecevit added that President Ozal was very late in giving his answer on this matter.

Islamic Leader Denounces U.S.; Urges Saddam Ouster

LD2104121191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] The head of Iraq's Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution of Iraq spoke in today's meeting of the assembly's general council about the situation inside Iraq and the uprising of Muslim people there.

According to the Central News Unit, he expressed gratitude for the unstinting assistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Iraqi refugees, and expressed regret about the position of other Arab and Islamic countries in this regard. He added that the United States is opposed to the Iraqi people overthrowing the regime ruling Iraq and has therefore encouraged the regime to massacre the Muslim people of Iraq.

Referring to the news published about the talks between the Iraqi Kurdistan Front and the Iraqi regime, he said: That step is not aimed at preserving Saddam or accepting him, because he is on the verge of falling; the talks are in fact aimed at achieving successes in Iraq's future government. He warned the leaders of the front about the Iraqi regime's plots and ploys, noted the importance of the Iraqi opposition forces maintaining a united position, and spoke about the effects of such unity on the future of Iraq and its Muslim nation.

U.S. Congress Bill on War Crime Trials Criticized

JN2004115191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 20 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has urged all free, honorable voices in the world to be raised in demanding that international organizations put an end to the ever-increasing U.S. arrogance.

In an editorial today, the newspaper says: Everybody in the United States is now aware of the influence the Zionist lobby has on political leaders. The support of committees for congressional candidates there run by Jewish organizations is common knowledge. U.S. papers have published many articles that prove these committees' assistance in the election campaigns of congressional candidates. Books shedding light on this have also been published. Therefore, it is not surprising that the U.S. Congress adopts proposals that support Israel and harm Arab states. The Congress' latest bill has a Zionist wording. The bill called for an international trial of those it calls Iraqi war criminals.

The newspaper continues: If we in Iraq are not surprised by such an act by U.S. congressmen, it is because we know their motives and know the parties that prompted them to peddle this bill. However, we wonder: Why did those congressmen not propose a trial for the real criminals who caused destruction to the sons of Iraq?

The paper asks: Why cannot those congressmen be honest and point the finger of blame at their President, George Bush, who exposed millions of Iraqis to death and starvation because of his despotic policy to entrench America's leadership of the world? Why do they not call for a trial for those who bombed shelters, bridges, roads, telephone exchanges, hospitals, places of worship, and residential areas? Why do the congressmen turn a deaf ear to the daily Zionist crimes in Palestine? Why do they not condemn the chapters of the war against Iraq? Why do they not denounce the instigation by their administration and its intelligence services of the demagogues and criminals who interfered with the security of the people of Iraq?

The paper says that the recent bill passed by the U.S. Senate exposes itself and the relationship between the side that passed it and Israel. Among the reasons cited calling on Congress to pass this legislation was that the Iraqi authorities committed violations of international law during the Gulf war, including the launching of missiles at Israel.

The paper says this alone was enough to make the U.S. "Knesset" pass its bill, which shows to what extent some U.S. politicians, who are supported by AIPAC [American-Israel Public Affairs Committee] and its subcommittees—which constitute a financial octopus surrounding the U.S. Congress—have degenerated.

The paper stresses that the entire world knows the real criminals who triggered the war. Those criminals are led by U.S. President George Bush. World opinion has followed the crimes committed in Iraq by the Americans and their allies. The world's conscience feels the tragedy of these crimes, especially since human memory is full of America's ugly crimes, beginning with the killing of the Indians, then the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, its crimes in Vietnam, Korea, Panama, and Grenada, and not finally, the crimes it committed in Iraq.

The paper asks: Therefore, who deserves to be brought to justice?

Concluding, the paper says: We in Iraq know the answer to this question. However, all free, honorable voices in the world should be raised to demand that international organizations put an end to this ever-growing American arrogance. All free and honorable people should describe things as they are and be fair to truth. The American master is not satisfied with the disasters he caused humanity; he wants to interfere in the smallest details of the internal affairs of independent states. Will voices be raised to expose this arrogance? [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH Claims U.S. Waged 'Dirty War'

JN2404090191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0636 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has strongly attacked the U.S. Pentagon for its "dirty war" in which it used the most

hideous internationally banned weapons while lying to the world, saying it was a clean war.

In an article today, the paper says: While the Bush administration was describing the American aggression against Iraq as the 100-hour war, the liberation of Kuwait, and the clean war, U.S. magazine TIME said that U.S. Forces used in their aggression radioactive bombs and missiles that harm not only the Iraqi forces, but also U.S. Forces themselves.

The paper adds: By doing so, the Bush administration has not only committed aggression against Iraqi forces, but also against U.S. forces and the forces of the so-called coalition states, the British, Italian, French, and others.

The paper says that at the same time, America launched a poisonous media campaign against Iraq and its lofty people, particularly when its media described the U.S. aggression as a clean war, while the truth is that what it used against the Iraqi forces, which also affected its own forces, are internationally banned weapons. The Bush administration uses them against any state in the world whose scientific and peaceful programs are based on modern nuclear technology that is used by these states to gain progress and national prosperity.

The paper asks: What kind of clean war is Bush claiming, and what liberation is he bragging about when the aggression is still beginning? The paper stresses that the Bush administration carried out the dirtiest military and media war in history against great Iraq.

The paper says: No sooner had Amnesty International denied that Iraqi forces had taken equipment from children's wards in Kuwaiti hospitals than another scandal and a new disgrace began whose only name can be the "dirty war".

Concluding its article, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Yes, it is a dirty war, which began several months before the U.S. military aggression against Iraq when imperialist and Zionist media poisoned world public opinion by fabricating numerous reports that were used by the U.S. President himself to justify aggression against Iraq and its great people—reports that were denied after the aggression by the same organizations that disseminated them.

Paper Denounces Dispatch of U.S Aircraft Carrier

JN2404093591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0702 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has denounced the U.S. Administration's decision to dispatch the aircraft carrier Roosevelt to the Turkish coast, describing it as an attempt to escalate the situation in the region and to continue the aggression and encroach upon Iraq.

In a commentary today, the paper, expressing the views of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, refers to the claim made by the White House administration on this, saying it is based on the pretext of preparing to interfere in case the Iraqi authorities tried to prevent the U.S. forces in the Turkish border area from carrying out their tasks of relieving Kurdish refugees.

The paper says that the presence of U.S. forces in the region is itself an encroachment on Iraq's rights and a violation of international law and the institutions of international legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH adds that this aggressive, strange, and abnormal action proves the U.S. indifference to all values and traditions of international relations, and is an extreme encroachment on the national rights of an independent state.

The paper says: The decision to dispatch forces is not only a violation, but also creates a problem, and consequently it anticipates an Iraqi reaction by dispatching an aircraft carrier as a warning against this anticipated reaction.

Concluding, the paper says that the real problem that the United States has created so as to escalate the situation against Iraq, namely the Kurdish problem, is only a political card for applying pressure on Iraq and to delay tackling the situation created by the Gulf war.

RCC Decision on Confiscating Land Confirmed

JN2304152491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers has issued a statement confirming the Revolution Command Council [RCC] Decision No. 367 of 7 September 1990, which provides for confiscating agricultural lands that are not cultivated by their owners or through others—in accordance with the agricultural density decided for these lands—without any compensation. At the end of the winter season, we would like to note that this decision will continue to be valid during the summer season. Those responsible for implementing this decision are currently taking all measures to guarantee the accurate implementation of this decision.

Thus, we urge the brother farmers and producers to plant any agricultural land implied by the decision and not to leave it uncultivated, because this will expose it to confiscation by the competent authorities. [passage omitted]

Shamir on Baker Soviet Trip, Security Interests

TA2304175791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir prefers the expression 'paths to peace' over the term 'red lines.' This evening Yitzhaq Shamir attended an Independence Day reception for Israeli Druze and Arabs. He promised to provide details on the advancement of the peace process only after he meets Secretary Baker over the weekend. Our correspondent Gil Litman was at the reception:

[Begin recording] [Litman] I assume that when Baker arrives in Israel, he will tell us whether Syria intends to take part in the regional conference, the prime minister said this evening. As for the participation of Jordan, Shamir said he does not wish to speak on behalf of any Arab country.

Shamir explained that the U.S. secretary of state's surprise trip to the Soviet Union is merely a problem of scheduling.

[Shamir] He told me that he wants to go to Moscow and meet with Soviet leaders before he arrives here, and he could not do it at the date that has been set before.

[Litman] What are the red lines Israel has drawn for itself concerning the negotiations and the conference?

[Shamir] I do not like the expression 'red lines.' I am looking for the paths through which we could advance toward peace.

[Litman] Shamir promised that additional details, such as the question of the participation of the European countries in the peace process will be given only after he talks to the U.S. secretary of state over the weekend.

Speaking to the dignitaries, notables, heads of Arab councils, and members of the Druze community, the prime minister stressed that Israel aspires for peace while guarding its security.

[Shamir] As you well know, we are currently in the midst of efforts to renew the peace process. Israel will extend its hand, with all its might, to advance the peace, while opening a new leaf for the benefit of all peoples of the region, without giving up the supreme security interest.

[Litman] We will fight to the end the terrorist, the stone-throwers, and the knife-wielders who do not want peace and only want violence, the prime minister said. They will lose. [end recording]

Shamir, Levi, Arens Agree on Responses to Baker

TA2304194391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Israel will reply positively to some of the questions presented by James Baker in Jerusalem; others will receive a negative response. This morning, the prime minister consulted with the foreign and defense ministers on this issue. Although Minister Arens expressed his reservations, a coordinated stand was eventually accepted.

Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin reports that the Israeli notes concern UN involvement and the participation of a representative from East Jerusalem in the conference. Israel will be willing to discuss terms for the convention of the conference beyond the opening session and will probably propose that this be done only if all the participants agree.

Concerning the participation of the European Community, the tendency is to respond favorably.

Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, said this evening that the meeting of Roland Dumas, French minister of state for foreign affairs, with Yasir 'Arafat is a slap in the face when Israel is holding contacts with the EC about its participation in the conference.

Sharon: Territory for Peace Unacceptable

TA2404054391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon said that he knows that Israel will reject Secretary of State Baker's formula of territory for peace. Sharon asserted that the Golan Heights and Jerusalem will not be discussed at all during any negotiation process. Minister Sharon was speaking in Haifa last night. Here is a report from our correspondent Shmu'el Tal:

[Begin recording] [Tal] Minister Sharon last night presented his political platform to the Likud members, while demanding the convocation of the Likud's Central Committee. Sharon said that the issue of disarmament should be discussed before anything else, the start of a process of democratization in the Arab countries must be demanded, and the participation of a separate Palestinian delegation should be rejected. Then and only then, Sharon said, will sitting down to talks become possible, but not, he added, about everything.

[Sharon] We cannot say that everything is open, without preconditions. Jerusalem cannot be considered a precondition. Jerusalem is a fact, and that should be stated right from the outset. There will be no negotiations on the issue of Jerusalem. [applause] This serves as a reminder to some of our colleagues who consider everything open to negotiation.

[Tal] Minister Sharon said that Baker ought to be asked whether the entire issue of peace will stand or fall on the question of whether Arabs from East Jerusalem participate in the delegation or not. Sharon asserted that the formula presented by the United States should be rejected.

[Sharon] Territories for peace—that is exactly what Saddam Husayn demanded before the Gulf war. I know

that Israel will reject this, and the prime minister made this clear in what I considered the firmest way possible. Therefore, only one conclusion is possible: We can count only on ourselves. [end recording]

Likud Opposition to Conference Growing

TA2404051791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Jerusalem has not yet received any reports on the course of Secretary of State Baker's talks in Damascus. At this stage sources here have surmised that Baker's decision to fly to the Soviet Union is a sign that he encountered difficulties in Syria. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports:

The bottom line right now is that apparently no one in Jerusalem knows why Baker decided to change his original plan, to postpone his trip to Jerusalem to Thursday [25 April], and to go meet his Soviet counterpart. If the talks in Syria had been successful, a senior minister in Jerusalem asserted, Baker would probably have come here from Damascus, or alternately, he would have let Israel know that the talks had been good.

Sources in Jerusalem last night spoke of the difficulties that had cropped up in Baker's meetings with the Arab leaders, especially in Syria. The Saudis are giving him the slip, a senior Israeli official said; the Syrians are mounting obstacles, demanding an international conference under UN auspices and Israel's withdrawal from the territories; King Husayn is not dependable and changes his positions daily; only Egypt remains in step with the United States. The official assessed that these were the reasons that Baker was now attempting to get assistance from the Soviets.

Meanwhile, as tense anticipation grows for the next important round of talks with Baker in Jerusalem, there is increasing resistance to the regional conference, in its proposed form, among top Likud officials. Defense Minister Moshe Arens is apparently not alone in this. Another senior Likud official told us yesterday that the move is a mistake, and he added that we are actually putting our head in a trap, the trap of an international conference.

It still remains unclear this morning just how strong the resistance within the Likud is, or whether the new opponents will be willing to join the original constraints minister, Ari'el Sharon, to stop the current political move.

Government 'Fears' U.S.-Soviet Coordination

TA2404062391 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev and the Arab affairs correspondent]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem fears that the U.S.-Soviet political coordination that Secretary of State James Baker will achieve in his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh will lead to a sharp confrontation between the U.S. Administration and Israel. [passage omitted]

Pessimism prevailed in the Foreign Ministry after yesterday's meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Foreign Minister David Levi, and Defense Minister Moshe Arens, in which they discussed Israel's replies to the questions Baker posed during his last visit. It has been learned that the three categorically object to including East Jerusalem residents in negotiations, whether or not they have double addresses, and that they have not agreed on granting the United Nations a place at the opening session. On the other hand, Shamir and Levi are willing to pursue with Baker the dialogue on including the Europeans and giving a certain degree of continuity to the conference.

Last night it was not certain that conclusive Israeli responses would be provided during the talks Baker will hold in Israel on Friday [26 April], after his meetings with Bessmertnykh. Sources in the prime minister's bureau said last night that Israel "needs more time to digest matters and hold consultations" before it gives its answers.

The sources confirmed that the prime minister had already consented to both an "opening" and a "closing" peace conference. A Foreign Ministry proposal suggests that the United Nations be included merely in the closing stage of the talks. In any event, Israel will demand that the conference not be authorized to convene—not even to hear reports—without the consent of each and every party.

Last night there was great uncertainty in Jerusalem in view of the sudden change in Baker's travel plans. [passage omitted]

Some political sources in Jerusalem believe that Baker is seeking Soviet support for his effort to convince Syria and the PLO to moderate their stands. The majority, however, are convinced that Baker has achieved considerable progress in his talks in Riyadh, Amman, and Cairo, and that he has reached the conclusion that now is the right moment to try to reach an agreement with the Soviets regarding a regional conference. There is fear in Jerusalem that the U.S.-Soviet understandings will be based on the positions of the moderate Arab countries and that Israel will have to reject them, which will lead to a definite confrontation between Israel and the United States.

A report received at the Foreign Ministry cites Arab and Western diplomatic sources in Washington as believing that Baker has in fact abandoned the "two-track" approach on which he had agreed with Israel at the beginning of his trips, and that he now supports a "two-phased" process that is to start with a discussion of the Palestinian problem with the exclusive participation of Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians. Only in the second stage—the sources note with satisfaction—does

Baker plan to introduce Syria, Saudi Arabia, and other Arab countries into the process.

The report also states that Baker was pushed into embarking on his present tour so soon after the previous round by both President Bush and his aide Dennis Ross, who believes that the parties must not be allowed time to evade the agreements already reached. Baker, the report states, is very pessimistic regarding his chances for success. He believes that the process is nearing a dead end, and he is afraid that the failure will be attributed to him personally. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Activists Oppose PLO on Conference

TA2304195191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Palestinian leaders from the territories who belong to the PLO mainstream are in favor of holding a regional conference, in contrast to the official PLO stand. This was reported by our correspondent Gil Sadan. In a meeting held this afternoon at the al-Hakawati theater in East Jerusalem, Palestinian activist Radwan Abu-'Ayyash declared that it does not matter what the peace conference is called, as long as it promotes the Palestinian issue.

Dr. Mamduh al-'Akr said that the Palestinians must stop saying no, and adopt a policy of yes, but.

Shamir Seen Leading Baker Efforts to Dead End

TA2304164991 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 22 Apr 91 p 7

[Editorial: Baker and the Obstacles"]

[Text] It has become obvious that at present all of Secretary of State James Baker's efforts are aimed at bringing the parties to the conflict to the negotiating table, leaving all the substantive points until the achievement of this objective.

One can say that what Baker is trying to do today is considerably similar to the efforts he exerted two years ago, which sought to bring a Palestinian and Israeli delegation to Cairo to discuss the Israeli Government's plan of 14 May 1989. At that time, these efforts were foiled because of the Likud Party's rejection of the points proposed by the U.S. secretary of state. The Israeli unity government fell, and Shamir succeeded in forming a narrow-based government with the participation of all the Israeli right-wing parties.

Now, the U.S. secretary of state is trying to bring Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and a Palestinian delegation participating jointly with a Jordanian delegation to the negotiating table, face-to-face with Israel, under the umbrella of a peace conference presided over by the United States and the Soviet Union, and until yesterday called a regional peace conference. What Baker fears is that his present efforts might have the same fate as those of two years ago as a result of the positions that Yitzhaq Shamir's government may adopt.

The Israeli news media are unanimous that the Israeli prime minister's stances toward Baker's current efforts do not give rise to optimism. Some of these media have predicted the failure of Baker's efforts, stating that the U.S. secretary explained to Shamir that if the Israeli response to Baker's proposals were not positive, the United States would not object to turning over the file of the Arab-Israeli conflict to the UN Security Council.

Although the U.S. secretary of state has decided to postpone discussion of all the substantial issues until after the start of negotiations, the Israeli Government's positions might lead Baker's efforts to reach a dead end. The question posed is: What will be the U.S. position at that time?

In the previous attempt, the American reaction was to tell Shamir: "When you are ready for peace, call the White House." There is no indication that there will be a different reaction this time, especially since Baker has stated that his country will not pressure Israel.

The statement that the United States will react by activating the UN Security Council is not based on real considerations. Assuming that the file was returned to the Security Council, what would this entail in view of the established U.S. stance not to exert any pressure on Israel or not to accept what Israel does not accept? The UN Security Council merely reflects the wishes, intentions, and tendencies of its members.

Further Reportage on Territories Settlements

Activists Say Only 3 Families in Revava

TA2104105991 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Apr 91 p 10

[Text] Forty Peace Now activists visited the new settlement of Revava on Friday [19 April] and found only three families living there, instead of the eight announced by Gush Emunim, movement spokesman Eran Chayett said yesterday.

"The impression is that Gush Emunim, which is trying to torpedo the peace process, is seeking to establish settlements precisely at this time—but is having difficulty attracting ideologically motivated settlers to them," said Chayett in a prepared statement. He said people seeking a higher quality of life are thronging to communities like Ari'el in the administered territories, but these people would be willing to leave the territories in return for a land-for-peace settlement.

MK Says Shamir Approved Revava

TA2204104291 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Apr 91 p A1

[Report by Yizhar Be'er and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] [National Religious Party] Knesset member [MK] Hanan Porat yesterday said that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir personally approved the actual settling at the new settlement of Revava. According to him,

Gush Emunim did not require approval to establish the settlement, since official approval had been granted by the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs seven years ago. He added that, as a "goodwill" gesture, the movement had nevertheless coordinated the date of the actual arrival of settlers with the appropriate authorities. [passage omitted]

No minister took the responsibility for the inauguration of Revava at yesterday's Cabinet meeting. Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon said: "I myself was surprised. I was not aware of the plans to move to the site that day." Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens remained silent.

Minister Yuval Ne'eman said that the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs, which he had headed, endorsed the establishment of 27 settlements, including Revava. One of the ministers noted that Ne'eman was the only minister present at that committee meeting. Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi added that "a new settlement will be established before every Baker visit."

Gush Emunim sources yesterday reported that preparations for two new mobile home projects were being carried out in Samaria. The projects will be situated in Yad Shaqed in northern Samaria, and in a neighborhood adjacent to Barqan. Twenty prefabs will be placed on the two sites. The work is done by the regional council of Samaria, and although the sites are new, they are described as neighborhoods in existing settlements.

Gush Emunim also intends to populate the settlement of Qatzif, next to Alon road in southern Samaria, in the near future. Gush Emunim settlers object to the establishment of isolated settlements, which often fail because of social problems, and demand instead that the existing settlements be expanded. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj sharply attacked the continued settlement and land expropriation in the territories. He claimed that Israel intends to enclose Bethlehem, as well as other places, and to turn it into Efrata, the name of biblical Bethlehem (and a neighboring urban settlement).

"If you go on with the land expropriations, you will be detested everywhere, and no Arab country will ever talk with you. Israel does not want peace; it wants a piece of land. The only member of the Israeli Government whose every word I believe is Ari'el Sharon," said Frayj.

Arens: Revava 'Fully Authorized'

TA2404111291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says the Revava settlement was set up according to a government decision some years ago and was fully authorized. In an address to the Knesset plenum this morning, the defense minister condemned the criticism of the Army chief of staff over last week's march in Samaria as unprecedented. Reporter David Ze'ev from the Knesset:

Responding to motions for the agenda, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said he wanted to separate between the establishment of the Revava settlement and the march organized by the Gush Emunim settlements movement in the area on Independence Day. Arens said the settlement itself was approved by the government some years ago. It was set up on private land, according to the defense minister, and it received all the proper endorsements. On the other hand, Arens criticized the way the march for Independence day was planned. It will be recalled that Gush Emunim wanted it to pass Revava. Eventually the Army agreed to an alternate route. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 24 April in a report by correspondent Asher Wallfish on page 2 adds that "discussing the controversy over last week's establishment of the new settlement of Revava, [Chief of Staff] Baraq said that although they had all the necessary government permits, the settlers went wrong because they failed to coordinate with the O/C [Commanding Officer] Central Command. Instead, they moved the caravans to the site with deliberate surreptitiousness."]

'Senior Sources:' Talmon Not Approved

TA2404101691 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Apr 91 p 2

[Report by military affairs correspondent On Levi]

[Text] Senior sources in Jerusalem and in the Justice Ministry last night expressed amazement at Gush Emunim activists' assertion that the new settlement of Talmon is an expansion of an existing settlement. According to these sources, the site on which settlers' homes have been just set up has not been approved for settlement by the government.

The sources added that although the establishment of Talmon had been endorsed in a government resolution in 1987, the site allotted by the government at that time is situated 2 km away from the site where houses are standing at present. They added that in view of political and legal problems, the actual establishment of the settlement had not been approved and no plans for it had been made.

Two days ago, however, all the restrictions were lifted in accordance with an approval granted by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, following which some 10 houses were built on the new site.

West Bank Settlements Expanding

TA2304192591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Report by settlement affairs correspondent Beni Liss]

[Excerpt] The construction drive in Judaea and Samaria is at its peak. Every settlement and location in the area is in the midst of an expansion process. Fleshing out is the

name of the game in Judaea and Samaria. On the face of it, there is hardly any need to set up new settlements. In 1984, a ministerial committee on settlement affairs approved the setting up of dozens of new residential locations. More than 20 locations from this list have not yet been set up, and this can be done at any minute, following the approval that has already been issued by the committee.

While the establishment of a new settlement entails responses from the world, the fleshing out of existing settlements can be done away from the headlines, and without providing too many explanations.

For example, in Yitzhar, located on a hilltop overlooking the notorious Huwwarah, mobile homes have already been placed, but this is not enough. A large part of the hill has been cut away and leveled, and already there are sites there for permanent construction. The contractors are ready to begin working. The infrastructure for the absorption of settlers is already at the site.

Some 80 settlements throughout Judaea and Samaria enjoy the plenty of the budgetary cake, the extent of which is unprecedented. Plans that were tucked away in drawers and not implemented due to lack of budget are being quickly implemented now. There is not one settlement that does not enjoy additional construction on its site: mobile homes or permanent housing. The method: At the first stage, smaller mobile homes are given to the families who wish to build their home there, and at the same time construction contractors are being brought in to do the job.

Because of the fact that it is located near the Green Line, many build their dream home in the settlement of Bet Arye. Most of them work in the Tel Aviv area. The bodies operating in the area declare that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir knows about every step made in the settlements. His only request of them is that things be done in a quiet way so as not to upset anyone. The same bodies also report that U.S. Consulate and Embassy personnel very often tour the settlements and document the settlement and construction drive on video to update Washington. [passage omitted]

Press Access Reinstated

TA2104135691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] Regulations governing press reports from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District are reverting to their prewar standards. As of now, free entrance for journalists to those regions is being reinstituted, as was the situation before the Gulf war. The above was reported by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman and the defense minister's media adviser.

In cases that involve security considerations, the commanders of the relevant Army commands and the IDF spokesman will be authorized to set limitations on press activity in clearly defined areas.

Violence, Land Expropriations

TA2104120691 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Apr 91 p A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Yizhar Be'er]

[Excerpts] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier and an Israeli civilian, both residents of 'Arad, were injured yesterday when a firebomb was hurled at their car near the settlement of Levona in the West Bank, close to the Arab village of Sammu'. The soldier was seriously injured in the face and sustained burns on all parts of his body. He was hospitalized in the emergency care unit at Soroka Hospital in Beersheva. The civilian was moderately injured.

Masked men murdered a local policeman in the village of Sanur, in the West Bank. At approximately 2100 on 19 April three masked men armed with a revolver kidnapped 35-year-old 'Arafat Habiba from his home in the village. Immediately upon receiving the report of his disappearance, the IDF began to search for the man, but to no avail. With morning, the policeman's body was discovered, bound hand and foot, near the settlement of Ganim. The man had been severely tortured.

Palestinian sources reported that the policeman had not been suspected of cooperating with the authorities. The IDF and the police launched an investigation.

Palestinian sources reported that two residents had been injured in clashes with the IDF in Yasid and were taken to the hospital in Nabulus. The incident occurred after stones were hurled at soldiers who had entered the village. The sources asserted that the soldiers had also beaten a 17-year-old girl, Iman Tsadaq, knocking out three of her teeth.

Following the murder of Janin Mayor 'Abdallah Lahluh's brother, the IDF closed off an 80-meter strip of Abu-Bakr Street, near the city's central market. The closed section of the street comprises 81 shops, four work shops, clinics and businesses that supply the livelihood of approximately 600 people. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources in the Gaza Strip reported that three residents were injured by IDF gunfire in the Gaza Strip in incidents that took place in the Jabalyah and Khan Yunus refugee camps.

The sources asserted that the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] had declared a strike in the Gaza Strip in the wake of Secretary of State Baker's visit to Israel.

A representative of the IDF spokesman in the Southern Command reported that no unusual incidents were reported over the weekend, except for the general strike.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 21 April in a page 3 report by Mikhal Sela' and DAVAR's correspondent in the south adds that "30-year-old 'Intisar Abu-Jazar, was murdered last Friday. She was married and pregnant. A car with four masked men pulled up beside her on the

street and one of them fired a volley of bullets at her from close range. She died on the spot."

[DAVAR also notes that "residents of Artas, south of Bethlehem, last week received official notice that 1,432 dunam of their private lands were to be expropriated. The land is destined to be used to expand the settlement of Efrat. The residents have legal ownership papers and intend to appeal to court to prevent the expropriations," adding that "the roadwork on highway no. 60 continues and is being carried out on approximately 1,600 dunams of agricultural land near Bayt Jala, Bayt Fajjar, and Hebron."]

Journalist Detained; Incidents Detailed

TA2204115291 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Apr 91 p A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Yizhar Be'er, 'Atallah Mansur, Menahem Horowitz, and ITIM]

[Excerpts] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer sustained a slight injury when a stone was dropped on his head in Khan Yunus yesterday. He was treated at Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon and released.

Palestinian sources reported that five Arab residents were wounded in incidents in the Jabalyah and Khan Yunus refugee camps and in Rafah. The IDF spokesman in the Southern Command reported no casualties. [passage omitted]

Last night, reinforced IDF units operated in West Bank villages pursuing wanted men. In the Janin District village of Silat al-Harithiyah, the troops shot and severely wounded Muhammad al-Ziyab, who was evacuated by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa with three bullets in the chest.

Masked men yesterday shot and critically wounded Lutfi al-Wahil, a 35-year-old resident of al-'Awja, who was suspected of assisting the authorities. In reaction, his friends, armed with firearms, blocked the Nabulus-Janin road and smashed the windshields of Arab cars. According to Palestinian sources, one of the friends was wounded by a stray bullet.

Two Molotov cocktails were thrown in Nabulus yesterday, one at a civilian truck and the other at an Army vehicle near al-Watani Hospital. In both cases, the bottles shattered but caused no damage.

The security forces have detained journalist Hamdi Faraj, a resident of al-Duhayshah refugee camp, who directs Bethlehem's press office. [passage omitted]

The High Court of Justice last weekend issued an interim injunction instructing the IDF troops in the Gaza Strip to stop uprooting olive trees and paving roads in the Tulkarm District village of 'Anabta. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 22 April, in a page 6 report, adds: "Haifa District Court yesterday gave a sentence of two years in prison and a three-year suspended sentence to 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Abdallah Ghaznawi, who was convicted of throwing a firebomb at a bus and a car."]

Peace Said 'Historical Responsibility' of All

JN2204170391 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1338 GMT 22 Apr 91

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Esteemed listeners, James Baker's present tour in our region is similar to the two tours which preceded it, in terms of an accompanying accentuation of two distinct tunes by guided media in some Arab capitals. The first tune talks about the need for U.S. pressure on Israel, claiming that peace will not be achieved without such pressure. As for the second tune, it claims that U.S. credibility is now being put to the test concerning peace efforts in the Middle East.

There is no doubt that these two tunes which are being played by guided media in some Arab capitals do not bode well. This is because, first, U.S. pressure on Israel, which some Arab capitals demand or hope for contradict—in fact, diametrically oppose—the genuine and sublime essence of real peace. Second, claiming that U.S. credibility is now being put to the test deliberately insinuates that peace is in the hands of the U.S. Administration, that it is the sole party which is responsible for achieving peace, and that all the U.S. Administration has to do is to pull peace out of its pocket or out of the hat of its secretary of state. Also, such a claim signals dependence and shirking of responsibility, not to say that such a claim conceals an unsound intention toward peace.

What is hoped, therefore, is that these two tunes would not be the polestar for the Arab parties concerned, despite that these two tunes are being played often by the media of this or that Arab capital. As for the basic, guiding pressures that all officials concerned in our region should primarily heed, they can be outlined or summed up in the following:

First, real peace can be achieved neither by imposition nor by force. Moreover, real peace will not be achieved unless all the parties involved approach it with sincerity and good faith. This established fact has been stressed over and over by the U.S. Administration, its President, secretary of state, and other senior U.S. officials.

Second, peace is not a favor to be done by one party for another; it is a high national interest for all peoples.

Third, comprehensive and real peace will not be presented to the peoples of our region on a silver plate by the United States, the Soviet Union, Europe, or the United Nations. Peace is a historical responsibility shouldered by all the rulers of our region, because it is the most sublime wish that right-minded peoples aspire for. This is also because the peoples of our region have never stopped dreaming of this peace and have long awaited it.

considering that they have had enough shedding of the blood of their sons and enough destruction, ordeals, and afflictions.

Yes, the hope is that the rulers of our region who are concerned and involved would consider these facts during their talks with the U.S. secretary of state and other intermediaries who are exercising their good offices, and that they would not miss the historic opportunity that is available at present to establish peace and to create a better future for the citizens of our region.

Soviet Diplomat Speaks of Resuming Relations

TA2404105891 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Apr 91 p A2

[Report by Washington correspondent Ran Dagoni]

[Excerpts] The possibility that the Soviet Union will announce the full resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel this week should not be ruled out. MA'ARIV heard this statement yesterday from a Soviet diplomat in Washington.

During our meeting, the Soviet diplomat said that the announcement may come at the end of Secretary of State Baker's meeting with his Soviet counterpart Aleksandr Bessmertnykh in the summer resort of Kislovodsk in the Caucasus. [passage omitted]

The Soviet diplomat's statements implied a greater flexibility in the USSR's conditions for renewing full relations. "The major obstacle until now has been the settling of Soviet immigrants in the settlements," the diplomat said, adding: "We would like to be convinced—perhaps through a verbal commitment or in writing—that the Soviet Jews will not settle in the territories."

The diplomat noted that "a good opportunity to resume full relations has now been created in the region. I cannot rule out our announcing the resumption of relations right after the meeting with Baker. If there is a clear sign that the all parties to the conflict are interested in taking part in a regional conference, I would say that we will resume relations with you. I would give it over a 60 percent chance."

The Soviet official said that "in such a case, the issue of Soviet Jews settling in the territories will remain a major problem but not a critical one."

The diplomat claimed that he had no knowledge of an expected visit by Soviet Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh to Israel, as was recently reported in the local media. He stressed that as far as he knew, there was no precedent of a foreign minister visiting a country with which his government does not maintain diplomatic relations. The diplomat, however, did not rule out such a visit after diplomatic relations are resumed. [passage omitted]

He added that although the Soviet Union still adhered to its position that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians, it is the Palestinians themselves who have to decide who represents them. He went as far as to say that the Soviet Union would be willing to halt weapons shipments to Syria, "if this is done on a reciprocal basis." [sentence as published]

Romanian Health Minister Arrives 21 Apr

TA2204100191 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Apr 91 p 10

[Text] Romania's Health Minister, Bogdan Marinescu, arrived last night as guest of his Israeli counterpart, Ehud Olmert. He is to be shown what Israel can offer in medical equipment and pharmaceuticals, and talks will be held on cooperation between the two countries in training nurses, about organ donations, transplants and other fields.

Food, Medicine, Industrial Goods To Go to Iraq

JN2404090391 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned that the Ministry of Industry and Trade has decided to export foodstuffs, medicines, and industrial products to fraternal Iraq as of yesterday.

An informed source said that the Ministry of Industry and Trade has made all the necessary arrangements and facilities for exporters in line with its policy to encourage Jordanian industries and to open new markets for them.

Exporters have told SAWT AL-SHA'B that the signs are that Jordan's exports will increase during the coming period after the Jordanian market suffered complete stagnation during the Gulf crisis, which had a negative impact on the Kingdom's national income.

Baker Tour Failure Seen Unless Israel Pressured

JN2304144491 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Apr 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Israel's Impossible Conditions"]

[Text] Since James Baker started his third Middle East tour, Israel has continued to set impossible conditions as a price for the mere opening of a window of opportunity for the peace process. This seems to indicate that the Shamir government is rejecting James Baker's initiative, as well as the peace option.

Israel continues to announce its refusal to implement UN Security Council [UNSC] resolutions, particularly Resolution 242. It likewise persists in rejecting the formula of exchanging land for peace. It also continues to accelerate and expand its settlement programs in a clear bid to kill the opportunity that exists to achieve peace in the region.

Israel has not remained content with this. Nay, it has begun to set further procedural conditions which could make the diplomatic efforts currently under way lose their momentum and cause the U.S. to stop mid way, as former Israeli governments did, especially since the extremist right wing assumed power in Israel.

The Israeli policies, which seek to hamper the current U.S. diplomatic peace efforts, were epitomized in the clearest possible manner when the Shamir government announced its rejection of participation in peace talks by the recognized legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people, when it said it rejects any Arab representation for the Arabs of occupied Jerusalem in the Palestinian delegation, and also when it said it adamantly opposes participation by the EC or the UN General Secretariat in any peace talks.

Various Israeli officials and other leaders of the ruling coalition making up the Shamir government gave Jewish settlers implicit assurances and assertions that there will be no withdrawal from the occupied territories and that the existing settlements will remain there. These assertions might show how far Israel can go toward peace, if it agrees to walk this road which is hateful and unpleasant to the Israelis.

In light of all this, we do not believe that there is a real chance of success for Baker's current mission. This will remain true unless unless Washington changes its treatment of the fanatic Israeli right-wing leaders, abandons once and for all its policy of placation and appeasement, and eventually decides to pursue a firm policy to apply the principles of international legitimacy and international law against a country that announces its disregard for all principles of right, justice, and peace in broad daylight.

We therefore hope the U.S. Administration, which has undertaken the mission of achieving peace in the Middle East, will draw the proper lessons and conclusions—concluding, like all world capitals, that Israel does not actually desire to make peace or start negotiations with the Arabs, because this would necessarily make it withdraw its troops from occupied Arab lands which have been declared by Zionist leaders to be indivisible parts of Israel.

If such a thing happens, and if the United States proves itself to be sincere in its Middle East peace efforts, we will expect it then to refer the issue to the United Nations and the UNSC so the international community may decide on the ways and means of making Israel relinquish its traditional rejection and succumb to the principles of international legitimacy and the UNSC resolutions which tackle all aspects of the existing situation in this part of the world.

Authorities Lift Ban on Sale of Egyptian Papers

JN2304192291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Amman, 23 Apr (WAKH)—The Jordanian authorities have allowed Egyptian daily newspapers and weekly and monthly magazines to go on sale again in Jordan as of today.

The Jordanian authorities stopped the sale of Egyptian dailies in Jordan during the Gulf war because Jordan and Egypt adopted different positions on the Gulf crisis. Jordan, however, allowed the sale of some Egyptian opposition papers that supported Iraq.

Dallul on Disarming Militias, Israeli Withdrawal

JN2304154391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Beirut—Lebanese Minister of Agriculture Muhsin Dallul has stressed the need to deploy the Lebanese Army in the specified areas by the end of the current month in accordance with the Lebanese Government's decision in this regard. The militias' weapons will be handed over according to the designated timeframe, he added.

In a radio talk, Minister Dallul said that the international community has promised Lebanon to implement Resolution 425 stipulating the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from southern Lebanon without any reservation.

Meets With FRC Delegation

NC2204175991 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Minister Dallul met with a delegation of Fatah-The Revolutionary Council [FRC] led by Mansur Hamdan at his home this morning. They reviewed the situation in Lebanon and Lebanese-Palestinian relations.

Sources close to the participants said the FRC delegation showed understanding toward the Lebanese Government's measures. The delegation also exhibited a readiness to facilitate the state's task in imposing its authority and sovereignty and to support any measure that would allow the Lebanese people to emerge from their predicament, including the withdrawal of weapons from areas where the Lebanese Army is deployed.

Response to Cabinet Decision on Militias

PNSF, PFLP Support Decision

NC2304172591 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] As part of the ongoing efforts to implement the Lebanese Cabinet decision on dissolving Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias, Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul today met with a delegation representing the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF]. Commenting after he meeting, Minister Dallul said:

[Begin Dallul recording] We met with a PNSF delegation today to discuss the issue of the Lebanese Army deployment as of 30 April and the imposition of the state's sovereignty over all Lebanese territory. I explained the decisions adopted by the Council of Ministers to the members of the delegation, who showed full understanding of this step and expressed their readiness to facilitate the Army's deployment. They agreed that no weapons but those of the legitimate authority should exist in the area of the deployment. They reiterated that they will not obstruct the restoration of the state's authority over or the deployment of the legitimate forces on every inch of Lebanese territory.

We met also with a delegation representing the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], which reiterated the same stands. They promised to issue a statement on behalf of a group of PLO-affiliated organizations, in which they will reiterate their willingness to facilitate the Lebanese Army's deployment and their agreement that only the weapons of the legitimate Lebanese authority will be allowed in the area of the deployment. [end recording]

Karami Denies Problems With Palestinians

NC2204175691 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami today denied that there was any problem between the Lebanese State and the Palestinians with regard to the implementation of the Cabinet decision on disbanding Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias and the handover of their weapons to the state in accordance with the al-Ta'if accord.

He said: We have received positive responses from the Palestinians, and we are pursuing the dialogue with them to secure the implementation of the Cabinet decision. Karami pointed out that some kind of distinction must be drawn between the weapons of the resistance and those of the militias, especially as the government's policy statement stipulates that resistance is the legitimate right of any people whose land is occupied by an enemy.

Meanwhile, Prime Minsiter Karami has sent a cable in response to a congratulatory cable from U.S. President George Bush. In his cable, Karami stressed the determination to achieve national reconciliation through dialogue and understanding to bring about lasting peace and security in Lebanon. The cable added that the implementation of all provisions of the al-Ta'if accord will lead to the establishment of a unified, sovereign, and independent Lebanon.

Palestinians Transport Weapons to Al-Biqa'

NC2404103091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Intensive efforts have been made to resolve the problem of the Palestinians' weapons. According to our information, Palestinian factions have begun transporting their weapons to al-Biqa' as a prelude to handing them over to the Lebanese authorities.

Prime Minister Karami was briefed by Minister Dallul on the latter's talks with the Palestinian factions. Karami said the results are excellent. He said that that the Palestinians are entirely responsive and agreed that no weapons but those belonging to legitimate authority will exist in the areas where the Army will deploy.

Minister Dallul said that a Palestinian statement will be released today and will support the Army deployment and the Cabinet's decisions for the imposition of the state's sovereignty over all Lebanese territory. Dallul pointed out that the Palestinians have shown a willingness to withdraw all the weapons from areas of the Army deployment. Dallul

noted that an agreement was worked out with the Palestinians that no other weapons will be allowed where the Army is deployed. He stressed that the Palestinian weapons will be transported to al-Biqa' and if the Lebanese militias hand over their weapons to the Army the Palestinians will do the same. Moreover, if the Lebanese militias transport their weapons to areas outside Lebanon, the Palestinians will follow suit, Dallul concluded.

Defense Minister Returns From Damascus

NC2104175991 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] Michel al-Murr, deputy prime minister and national defense minister, this evening returned from Damascus, where he met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi.

Immediately after arriving, Minister al-Murr went to the presidential palace, where he met with His Excellency President al-Hirawi and briefed him on his visit to Damascus. Minister al-Murr later met with Prime Minister 'Umar Karami and briefed him on the outcome of his talks in Damascus.

Minister al-Murr has invited the ad hoc ministerial committee in charge of implementing the Lebanese Cabinet decision on imposing the legitimate authority throughout Lebanese territory to a meeting on 24 April, before the regular Cabinet session.

Al-Tufayli on Resistance, Iranian Guards

NC2104182091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has stated that Hizballah believes the resistance must retain its weapons, adding: We will defend these weapons and no one, not even the Lebanese authority, will be allowed to take them away.

In an interview to appear tomorrow in the MONDAY MORNING magazine, Shaykh al-Tufayli responded to a question about the ministerial committees' exchanges and efforts concerning the collection of militias' weapons by saying: I have heard about these committees, but we neither have seen anyone nor had any exchanges with such committees.

In the interview, al-Tufayli said that the Iranian Revolutionary Guards are not an armed party in Lebanon, adding that these guards will withdraw only when the Islamic Republic in Iran so decides.

Asked if there is an inclination to work out a diplomatic and political solution to the issue of the Palestinian weapons, al-Tufayli said: There is an inclination to conduct a dialogue. He ruled out any steps that would cause a military escalation.

In another development, Hizballah has rejected any move that could negatively affect the role and weapons of resistance. It cautioned against involving the Army in any role that would hinder resistance activity, according to a statement issued at noon today.

The statement says: We do not want to believe media reports about the Army's confrontation and arrest of a group of resistance fighters. The statement notes that there are signs that give rise to concern and pessimism.

Hizballah Statement on Arrests

NC2204081691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Commenting on media reports that the Lebanese Army intercepted and detained a group of resistance men, Hizballah has issued a statement noting that some suspicious trends have surfaced recently. These trends cause concern and bring into question the Army's relations with the resistance and its role in confronting the Zionists and their agents.

The statement then wondered about the change in the Army's combat ideology after all the bitter experiences, which should have necessitated that the Army walk away from any scheme that serves the enemy's interests. The statement asks about the objective of confiscating the resistance's weapons, breaking into one home, and digging up an arms cache located not more than a few meters away from the positions of the enemy and its agents. The statement cautioned against the serious nature of this course. It urged the parties and figures who care for the future of our country and our communities to raise their voices in rejection of any action that could undermine the continuation of the resistance's role or its possession of weapons and to denounce any measures taken against the strugglers, who have stood up to the agents of the Jews.

In conclusion, the Hizballah statement recommended that the Army not get involved in any role that could hamper the resistance activity. The statement stressed the need for the Army's role in safeguarding the security of our people and in complementing the role of the resistance for liberating and protecting the territories from the designs of the invaders.

Fighting Breaks Out in 'Ayn Al-Hulwah Camp

NC2304182791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Our radio has received a report from the South that fighting broke out at 1100 today between two Palestinian groups in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. The fighting between a group from Fatah-The Revolutionary Council [FRC] and another group from the Emergency Council, an FRC splinter group, lasted for 30 minutes until it was halted when PLO elements intervened. Security sources have not revealed the number of casualties.

Baker Arrives, Delivers Message From Bush

JN2304175391 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] At 1145 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian.

Baker conveyed to the president a message from U.S. President George Bush. The talks dealt with the ongoing efforts to launch a peace process in the region.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN2304202691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, 23 Apr (SANA)—At 1145 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian.

Baker conveyed to the president a message from U.S. President George Bush. The talks dealt with the ongoing efforts to launch a peace process in the region aimed at establishing a comprehensive and just peace based on UN resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Baker briefed the president on the results of his tour of the region. An in-depth discussion was held regarding the various aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question.

The two sides agreed to continue contacts within the framework of the ongoing efforts to give momentum to the process of achieving a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

Gives News Conference

JN2404104491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held a news conference in Damascus this morning. The conference was attended by correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies and by the media team accompanying Baker.

At the beginning of the news conference, Baker said: We held detailed and expanded talks yesterday with President Hafiz al-Asad and Faruq al-Shar'. I believe that the talks were useful and that they largely centered on the form of the conference that may be convened to start direct bilateral negotiations between the sides involved. I believe that we are working to solve these matters in a very constructive way.

Al-Shar' said: I can say that James Baker's talks with President Hafiz al-Asad were useful and constructive during the long hours of these talks, which centered on various issues and were based on a better understanding of the various aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question. We also agreed to be in constant touch to continue consultations and talks.

Iranian Minister Arrives For Trade Talks

JN2304172391 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1620 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, 23 Apr (SANA)—Iranian Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji and his accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to Syria, which will last several days.

Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; the Iranian ambassador in Damascus; and Dr. Mustafa al-Bitar, director of international relations at the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade, received the Iranian guest at Damascus International Airport.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, the Iranian commerce minister said he has come to Syria to hold talks with Syrian officials to promote trade relations between the two friendly countries.

He added: The strong relations between Syria and Iran have encouraged us to meet Syrian officials to further develop these relations in all spheres.

Lebanese Ministers Cited on Syrian Assistance

JN2304134491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] Beirut—Muhammad Baydun, Lebanese minister of housing and cooperatives, has stated that under President Hafiz al-Asad and through its sacrifices, Syria has confronted the Zionist ambitions and plots that are aimed at continuing war and dividing Lebanon. In a statement published in the latest issue of the magazine SABAH AL-KHAYR AL-BINA', Baydun praised Syria's efforts to mobilize Arab resources and realize Arab solidarity to foil Zionist plots.

Baydun said Syria presented a real example in its work to establish an effective Arab solidarity, affirming that the Damascus declaration constitutes a big step toward realizing Arab solidarity and strengthening Arab unity of ranks in dealing with the challenges facing the Arab nation following the Gulf crisis which was caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He said that Lebanon is currently drawing up its Arab policy in coordination with sisterly Syria, whom Lebanon considers to be a guarantee in this regard. He said: I can assert that Syria is a guarantee for Lebanon's independence.

Baydun praised Syria's great efforts to save Lebanon from Israel's designs aimed to continue and foment the sedition to divide Lebanon. He said Syria was the only sister that helped Lebanon during the period when it faced collapse. Lebanon could not regain its unity without Syrian assistance.

On another level, Khatchig Babikian, the Lebanese minister of justice, announced that the withdrawal of weapons will include both Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias. In a statement to the press today, he said that should any party fail to adhere to the Council of Ministers' decision to disarm the militias, there will be punishments, and specific means of implementation to be decided by the government.

Answering a question on how to absorb the militia elements into the state establishments, the Lebanese minister of justice said that everything will be discussed in the Council of Ministers.

Paper Says Israel 'True Enemy of Peace'

JN2404095991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israel Is a True Enemy of Peace," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: While peace efforts continue in the search for justice, security, and stability in the Middle East, and while the international community pins great hopes on these efforts that focus on the depths of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Israel appears in its true colors and exposes its hostility to peace every time these efforts come closer to the crux of the crisis and the means of resolving it.

The paper says that these peace efforts cannot but adhere to the implementation of international resolutions. The will of the United Nations, which expresses the international community's will, still clashes with Israel's intransigence and its adherence to its aggressive approach through its announced positions, the least of which is its refusal to respond to the international will, and its insistence on continuing the settlement policy and on plans to absorb emigrants at the expense of the Palestinian people.

Concluding, the paper says: This intransigence means that a just peace and efforts to achieve it intimidate Israel and expose its true nature, because it is a true enemy of peace and justice. This is an issue that, sooner or later, will be understood by those who are still deceived by the Zionist entity's claims of peace. Only then, calculations should be reconsidered and efforts should focus on achieving peace by using all the necessary means and methods.

On the same subject, the newspaper TISHRIN says: Perhaps the most important result of the current efforts to resolve the tense situation in the region is the conviction of the international community that the Tel Aviv rulers have no desire to establish the objective circumstances for achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and that these rulers cling to the policy of aggression and expansion.

The paper says that the Tel Aviv rulers reject the principle of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and insist on annexing the Golan Heights, judaizing the West Bank, and keeping Jerusalem as their eternal capital. These rulers deny the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination and to the restoration of their usurped rights. They also reject any UN role, because they do not want to implement the resolutions of this international institution.

The paper adds: The Tel Aviv rulers' actions clearly prove that they do not want peace, that they are not trying to achieve it, and that they have no respect for UN resolutions or for the international community. At the same time, they are not ready to accept any proposal or efforts that conflict with Zionist intransigence, even if they come from Washington.

The paper adds: Israel does not want America to take a position that conflicts with Zionist interests or curbs the freedom of the Israeli expansionist settlement movement.

The paper says: As long as the world is now convinced of the need to resolve the crisis in accordance with UN resolutions, then it is necessary to remove the Israeli obstacle so the road to peace will be passable.

Minister of Interior Meets Kazakh Official

JN2304182591 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, 23 Apr (SANA)—Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah met here today with Trinin Vich Mikhail Biriznok [name as received], minister of interior of the Kazakh Soviet Republic, and the accompanying delegation.

The talks revolved around means to promote and develop relations between the two friendly countries, especially between the two Ministries of Interior.

A meeting was held between a delegation from the Ministry of Interior headed by Assistant Minister of Interior Major General Salah-al-Din Dabbagh, and the Soviet delegation headed by Biriznok which dealt with bilateral relations and means to promote them.

Afghanistan

More on Scud Attack; Kabul Troops Flee Jalalabad

BK2304164891 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] More details have come in on the destruction caused in Asadabad in Afghanistan due to missile attack by Kabul regime forces. Experts say that the destruction of men and material in the area show that such havoc could not be caused by the common Scuds of the 5,500 kg. They are of the view that the Kabul regime forces had used Soviet ballistic missile SS-12 Scaleboard which carries 8,000 kg of explosive. According to the AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS, the vibrations caused by explosions were so severe that the walls of Asadabad jail situated about 450 meters away from the place where the missile landed were also damaged. The jail superintendent was standing at the jail tower at the moment, fell down, and died on the spot. Meanwhile, families of strapped Kabul troops and high-ranking officials are fleeing from Jalalabad, fearing mujahidin's attack on the city.

Government Protests Pakistani Overflight

LD2204165591 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Pakistan's charge d'affaires to Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Affairs Ministry today. A strong protest note was conveyed to him by the head of the first political section of this ministry, with the following text:

According to the reliable information, yesterday at 0506, a Pakistani jet aircraft entered the airspace of the Republic of Afghanistan, flying in the direction of (Zargar Khel) Khowst Province at a speed of 800 kph.

After four minutes of reconnaissance over Khowst Province, it left Afghan airspace.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan considers this action by Pakistan's forces as flagrant aggression of the airspace of the Republic of Afghanistan and a clear violation of the principles of the international relations and provisions of the Geneva accords, and protests strongly against this action.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan calls on the Pakistani authorities to prevent any repetition of such aggression; otherwise, responsibility for the grave consequences will naturally rest with the Pakistan Government.

Military Captures Two Pakistani 'Spies'

LD2304195391 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Two Pakistani citizens were captured today by the Armed Forces of the country while engaged in subversive armed activities in the Tangi Waghjan area of the Mohammad Agha district of Lowgar. According to the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section report, the pair illegally entered the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan against all international norms and treaties. They were embarking on subversive activities planned by Pakistan's military intelligence, the ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence], in collaboration with warmonger extremists. The pair were identified as Mushtaq Ahmad, son of Mushtaq Ahmad, and Tasis Sidique. Both are residents of Rawalpind.

One rocket launcher and one Kalashnikov were captured.

This is not the first time that Pakistan spies have embarked on such acts and violations. Pakistan's intelligence agency, the ISI, has always sent its spies and mercenaries onto the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan for subversive and interventionists activities in contravention of the Geneva agreements and the resolution of 45th session of the UN General Assembly.

Decree Issued on Assisting Citizens' Return

LD2104091191 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Apr 91

["Statement by the Republic of Afghanistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated 20 April 1991"]

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, recently issued decree No.72 dated 14 April 1991 concerning the creation of favorable conditions for our compatriots far away from their homeland who travel to the country, which was broadcast for the information of our compatriots via the mass media.

To implement this decree, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has instructed all embassies and consulates of the Republic of Afghanistan to provide necessary facilities for our compatriots' return to the country. Our compatriots abroad can go to the political agencies of the Republic of Afghanistan with confidence and peace of mind. The embassies and consulates of the Republic of Afghanistan will provide all necessary facilities for returning compatriots to the country in accordance with the above decree.

Bangladesh

Premier's Motorcade Attacked; No Injuries

BK2404093491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0901 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Dhaka, April 24 (AFP)—Rival factions of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) attacked and damaged two cars in her motorcade, the BANGLAR BANI newspaper reported Wednesday.

It said the clash in Bhola District Tuesday occurred when police and BNP activists clashed following the refusal of the premier to address the supporters.

A car carrying parliamentary speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas was among those damaged but Begum Zia was unhurt.

Begum Zia had refused to address the activists, who had blocked the road, on grounds that she was visiting people affected by a widespread diarrhoea epidemic and was not on a political tour.

Reports said the BNP was divided in the district over the nomination of a candidate for a June by-election.

Talks With India on Border, Water Sharing

BK2304165291 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Bangladesh and India have begun talks in Dhaka on sharing waters of the common rivers. The talks at the secretary level are a follow-up of the visit of Indian Foreign Secretary Muchkund Dubey to Bangladesh last month. Indian secretary for water resources, Mr. M.A. Kisali, is leading a six-member delegation in the talks. Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Secretary M.A. Malik is heading the six-member home team. The two-day meeting is scheduled to be concluded tomorrow.

The leader of the Indian delegation today called on Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Majedul Haq. The irrigation minister expressed the hope that the misunderstanding on sharing of Ganges water would come to an end soon. Mr. Majedul Haq said the historic agreement on sharing of the Ganges water was signed in 1977. But after 1982, India changed her stand on water resources and no agreement was reached during the last nine years of autocratic rule. The Indian secretary for water resources expressed his sincere interest (?in) a fruitful and durable solution on sharing of water of the common river. He hoped that the leaders of both countries would be able to find out a pragmatic solution of the problem.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh and India have agreed to further strengthen the security measures in the border areas. The agreement came at a border coordination conference held between the two countries in Chittagong today. The Bangladesh team was led by the deputy director general of Bangladesh Rifles, Brigadier Abdullah al-Hossain, while the Indian side was headed by the inspector general of BSF [Border Security Force] of Tripura, Cachar and Mizoram frontier, Mr. (Ardhanath Pathak). They discussed transborder crimes, their identification, and effective countermeasures to control them. Matters relating to smuggling and law and order situation in the border areas were also discussed.

Soviet Ambassador Predicts Closer Ties

BK2104163491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1625 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] Dhaka, April 21 (AFP)—The Soviet ambassador to Bangladesh predicted closer ties between Moscow and Dhaka under Bangladesh's new government led by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, the official BSS News Agency reported Sunday.

"We believe political, economic and cultural relations between Moscow and Dhaka will enhance after the recent changes in Bangladesh," the agency quoted Ambassador Vitaliy Smirnov as saying.

Refusing to discuss Bangladesh's internal affairs, he said his country always sympathised with the aspirations of the people, adding that bilateral ties would be further reinforced with the new government in power.

Mr. Smirnov said his country looked forward to high-level political visits from Bangladesh.

PRC To Help Develop Energy, Coal Mining

BK2104161891 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] China is to help in the development of energy and coal mining in Bangladesh. This was stated by Chinese Ambassador Chen Songlu during a meeting with the state minister for energy and mineral resources, Dr. Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain, in Dhaka today. The state minister briefed the envoy about the prospects of the energy and mineral resources sector and the ongoing projects being financed by China.

India

Further Reportage on Situation in Punjab, Assam

Official Hints at Election Postponement

BK1904150791 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] The chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, has indicated the possibility of postponing the polling dates for Punjab and Assam. He told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that the governors of the two states have suggested new dates for polling on the ground of security arrangements. Mr. Seshan said for the Lok Sabha and assembly poll in the state, the Assam governor has suggested the 31st of May and the 3d of June as dates, while the Punjab governor has suggested the 20th of June. The chief election commissioner said that the communications from the two states were received by him this evening from the Union Home Ministry after he had already announced that the poll in Punjab will be held on the 20th of May and in Assam on the 23d. The state governors of Punjab and Assam had also issued notifications accordingly. In their communications to the center, the governors had said that they need extra security personnel to provide protection to contesting candidates. This requirement is over and above the need indicated by them earlier. Mr. Seshan said that utmost consideration will be given to the suggestions of the

governors. He said the election process, like filing of nominations, scrutiny, and withdrawal, will continue as per schedule.

The Congress-I says it will keep itself out of elections in Punjab. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi this evening, the party spokesman, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, termed the government action to go ahead with elections as irresponsible and said it has not listened to the advice of major political parties that an atmosphere for a free and fair poll does not prevail in the state.

The Communist Party of India-Marxist says it is not possible for the party to participate in the election in Punjab. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party leader, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, said under the prevailing situation, free and fair poll in the state cannot be ensured.

The union minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant, has defended the decision of the government to hold elections in Punjab. Speaking to newsmen in Jaipur today, he said terrorism could be fought only by setting in motion the political process. The Janata Dal has welcomed the announcement of elections in Assam and Punjab. The party leader, Mr. Surendra Mohan, said in New Delhi that his party welcomes the development. The committee on Punjab, which comprises eminent persons, has also welcomed the government decision to hold elections in the state.

Assam Strike Affects 'Normal Life'

BK2204094891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] In Assam, normal life in most parts of the Brahmaputra valley has been affected since early this morning, following a 12-hour statewide bundh [strike] called by the Assam Jatiyobadi Yuvachatra Parishad. Banks, business establishments, and educational insitutions remained closed. Vehicular traffic except the corporation buses remained off the road. Train and air services have either been regulated or canceled.

The Parishad has called for the bundh, demanding withdrawal of special acts imposed in the state along with president's rule, unconditional release of prisoners arrested by the Army and police, and holding of talks with ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] to restore the democratic process in the state.

BJP Leader on Party Election Stand

BK2204094091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] says it is not against holding of elections in Punjab but wants a conducive atmosphere in the state to ensure that ballots and not bullets decide the poll. Talking to newsmen in Simla today, the vice president of the BJP, Mr. K.L. Sharma, said the party has not taken any decision to boycott the polls in Punjab. He said the party high command will meet soon to take a final decision in this regard. Mr. Sharma said it is now for the chief election commissioner to find a way out to delink the Lok Sabha and assembly elections in Punjab from the rest of the country.

Shekhar: Government Prepared To Help

BK2404094891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, today categorically stated that he has not met the leader of a single militant group from Punjab so far, nor has any request come from them for a meeting with him. He was speaking to newsmen at Delhi airport this morning after seeing off the president, Mr. Venkataraman, who left on an eight-day state visit to Vietnam and the Philippines. The prime minister said irresponsible statements are being made by some political leaders in this regard, who, he said, seem to be suffering from some kind of phobia. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he would not be deterred by the advice of these political leaders and would try his best to improve the situation in Punjab, Assam, and Jammu and Kashmir. He said the government is prepared to take the help of all those who want restoration of normalcy in these states.

Law Minister Discusses Elections Dates

BK2404095291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] The union law minister, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, has said that there can be a slight postponement of the polling dates for Punjab that ruled out any change in the election process already set in motion. He told PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] in Madras today that the center would not take notice of the demand of the Congress-I, CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] on denotification of the presidential notification and would go ahead with the poll process in the state. He said there is no question of changing the dates for filing of nominations, scrutiny, and withdrawal which are already notified.

Government Recommends Jun Polls

BK2404103091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] The center has recommended to the Election Commission that elections should be held in Punjab on the 15th and 16th of June. A communication to this effect was sent by the Home Ministry to the commission yesterday. Disclosing this to newsmen in New Delhi today, the minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant, said that the center is not in favor of any further postponement of the dates, saying it might send wrong signals.

The minister said that the government has thoroughly examined the question of deployment of paramilitary

forces in Punjab and Assam for the elections before recommending the dates. All preparations have been made for holding polls in Assam on the 31st of May and 3d of June.

Replying to questions, the minister clarified that the center has not had any direct talks with any militants. But discussions have been held with their political sympathizers.

Akali Dal Faction To Run

BK2404104091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] In Punjab, the Akali Dal-Longowal has decided to reactivate itself and to participate in the coming assembly and parliamentary polls. The acting president of the party [Kabul Singh] told a news conference in Chandigarh today that his party would contest all the 117 assembly and 13 parliamentary seats. Mr. Kabul Singh did not rule out the possibility of seat adjustments with Congress-I and non-BJP [non-Bharatiya Janata Party] parties. He said his party is a registered party with the Election Commission and will be contesting the elections on the symbol of scales. The party general secretary, Captain Kanwaljit Singh, who was present at the news conference, said his party had agreed to merge with the other two Akali Dal factions keeping in view the interests of the Sikhs in the state. But, he said, his party has now realized that Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann does not believe in unity and has been functioning only as a leader of one of the factions. He said his party believes in the rule of law and appealed to the people of Punjab to elect the government which can ensure peace in the state. The Akali Dal group led by Mr. Prakash Singh Badal has already decided to reactivate itself and participate in the coming elections to the Lok Sabha and the state assembly.

Commission Announces Poll Dates

BK2404130091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The poll dates for Assam and Punjab have been announced. The chief election commissioner, Mr. Seshan, told newsmen in New Delhi a short while ago that both the Lok Sabha and assembly elections in Assam will be held on the 6th and the 8th of June. And in Punjab, the polling will be held on the 22d of June for both assembly and the Lok Sabha. [passage omitted]

Gandhi Files Nomination for Lok Sabha Seat

BK2404101691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, today filed his nomination papers from Amethi constituency for the Lok Sabha. Mr. Gandhi is seeking reelection from Amethi for the fourth time.

President Leaves for Vietnam, Philippines

BK2404054091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, left New Delhi this morning on an eight-day state visit to Vietnam and the Philippines. The vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar; deputy chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Najmaheptullah; and other dignitaries were present at the airport to see him off.

Hanoi is well decked up to receive President Venkataraman when he arrives in the Vietnamese capital on a five-day state visit today. Our Southeast Asia correspondent reports that colorful banners are flying across the central Chi Linh Square praising Indo-Vietnamese friendship.

During his stay, Mr. Venkataraman will have talks with his Vietnamese counterpart, Mr. Vo Chi Cong, and leaders of the Communist Party on bilateral and regional matters. India and Vietnam recently signed a protocol to step up trade to $100 million per annum.

President Venkataraman will reach the Philippines on Sunday. In Manila, apart from talks with the president, Mrs. Corazon Aquino, Mr. Venkataraman will deliver a lecture at the Philippines University. He will also meet other Filipino leaders and prominent Indians settled in that country.

Bomb Explodes Near Home of Uttar Pradesh Chief

BK2404092691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, a country-made bomb exploded near the official residence of the chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, in Lucknow this morning. Police immediately cordoned off the area and launched a search operation. Three similar bombs and a knife were found at the premises. A police subinspector was seriously injured while he was trying to defuse the bomb kept near the chief minister's residence. Later, speaking to newsmen, the chief minister said this may be the handiwork of communal and divisive forces trying to create panic and disturbances during the election process. Mr. Yadav appealed to the people to remain calm and extend cooperation in conducting peaceful elections.

10,000 Shiite Muslims Hold Anti-Saddam Rally

BK2204115991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0854 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] New Delhi, April 22 (AFP)—Thousands of Shiite Moslems from northern India, led by Moslem clergy, held a huge anti-Saddam Husayn rally here Monday to protest Baghdad's repression of the Kurdish and Shi'ite rebellions in Iraq.

The Moslems, wearing black as a symbol of mourning and protest and shouting "Saddam—Enemy of Islam,"

converged on New Delhi's sprawling boat club lawn to express "hatred" for the bombing of the sacred Islamic towns of al-Najaf and Karbala' by Iraqi forces.

"He (Saddam) has delivered the most savage blow on Islamic traditions by dividing brothers and by bombing the two holy cities," said a clergyman as poets sang and read out sacred scriptures from the Koran.

The protesters, many of whom travelled from other northern cities by bus, also demanded the release of the supreme Shi'ite authority, Seyyed 'Abdolqasem Kho'i, who is under house arrest in Iraq.

"The grand Kho'i is to the Shi'a Moslems as revered as the pope is to the Christians and we demand his immediate release," said a clergyman, Imam Maulvi Mansoor Ahmad.

The rally, bristling with posters and black banners, was estimated by police to be the largest anti-Saddam demonstration so far in India, with more than 10,000 participants.

"The enemy of Islam—Saddam, Saddam," chanted the protesters as men, women, and members of the Shi'ite clergy braved a blazing sun and poured onto the lawn, about one kilometre (.6 mile) from parliament.

"Indian laws restrict us or else we could have got the head of Saddam (Husayn) by now," one clergyman shouted over a microphone to resounding applause.

Indian Shi'ites have complained that New Delhi, a former ally of Iraq, has taken a wavering position on the Gulf crisis.

"This is not a religious rally—people have come from all over India to protest the atrocities on our Kurdish brothers and sisters by that animal," said Maulavi Kalvi, the chief cleric from the Shi'ite-dominated northern city of Lucknow.

The rally, sponsored by the Supreme Council of Ulemas, the top Shi'ite religious body here, was not permitted to cross police barricades, but organisers said they would later present a memorandum to Indian leaders and foreign envoys in New Delhi.

"It is not possible to express in words the pain and agony which the entire Moslem community is passing through due to this tragedy," Council Chief Syed Mohammad Musavi said in the memorandum.

"These shrines are held in reverence ... And the destruction has deeply anguished the community."

The memorandum asked the Indian Government to allow a fact-finding team to visit Iraq, urged it to ask Baghdad to halt its anti-Kurdish and anti-Shi'ite offensives, and demanded that New Delhi back the post-war "democratic" movements.

U.S. troops have already moved across the Turkish border into Iraq to create safe havens for the thousands of Kurds fleeing to Iran and Turkey in one of the largest migrations by war refugees in recent times.

The troops are also acting as a shield for the Shi'ite refugees in the south of the country.

Air Force MiG-21 Explodes in Midair

BK2304091091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0534 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] New Delhi, April 22 (AFP)—An Indian Air Force MiG-21 fighter aircraft exploded in mid-air over the northeastern border district of Jaipalguri in West Bengal State Monday after its tail caught fire, the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) reported Tuesday.

The pilot bailed out safely and was admitted to a military hospital with minor injuries, the agency said, adding that wreckage of the plane was scattered over an area including two villages but no-one was hurt.

There was no immediate comment from the armed forces on the crash, which UNI said had taken place during a "routine sortie."

Indefinite Curfew Clamped in Baroda City

BK2404040791 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] In Gujarat, an indefinite curfew has been clamped in some areas under the city police station of Baroda city from last night. A police official told our Ahmedabad correspondent that six persons were killed and seven others injured in a violent incident including stabbing. Two companies of state reserve police have been deployed in the trouble torn areas. The situation is reported to be under control.

Spokesman Decries Pakistan's 'False Propaganda'

BK2304163491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] India has expressed distress at the screening of a television documentary by Pakistan containing false propaganda. A Foreign Ministry spokesman in New Delhi regretted that this happened immediately after the conclusion of the constructive foreign secretary level talks between the two countries.

Ghana Seeks Help in Agriculture, Cooperation

BK2204144691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Ghana has sought India's help in the field of agriculture and cooperation. This was conveyed to the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, by the minister for local government of Ghana, Mr. Kwamena Ahwoi, in New Delhi today.

Mr. Ahwoi, who is the president of Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization, is in the capital to attend the executive meeting of the organization beginning tomorrow.

Iran

Chief Justice Calls for Saddam Trial

LD2404004291 Tehran IRNA in English 1551 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 23, IRNA—Chief Justice Ayatollah Morteza Moqtada'i today called for setting up an international tribunal to try Iraq's Saddam Husayn for his "crimes" including the eight years of war against Iran and the recent general massacres of the Iraqi people.

The ayatollah in his address to the first general session of the Supreme Court in the new calendar year (started March 21), also asked the Iranian people to continue their support for their Iraqi brethren who have been forced to seek refugee in Iran by the Ba'thist regime.

Deputy Khalkhali Addresses Majles 23 Apr

LD2304163391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Second Program Network in Persian 0450 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Speech by Qom Deputy Khalkhali at the 23 April Majles session in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The horrific atrocities perpetrated by Iraq's Ba'thists place these heartbreaking tragedies behind a cloud, obscuring reality. It has come to a point where some people, inside and outside Iraq, believe that America should be welcomed as the saviour of the Iraqi nation. This is one of their plots and tricks. Iraq was destroyed by their weapons, missiles, and aircraft. The Iraqi infrastructure has been destroyed. Years of back-breaking toil will not be enough for the Iraqi people to repair it.

Saddam is not the issue. It is they who now keep Saddam in power. Their aim is to impose partition on Iraq under the pretext of establishing security and autonomy for the Kurds. [passage omitted]

All Muslims from all Islamic countries must stand firm in the face of such conspiracy, not as they did recently when the Islamic armies, in supporting America's aggression, stationed themselves in Kuwait, to the benefit of America. Israel let out a sigh of relief. One Jewish person, one invader is killed in the occupied territories, and the mass media affiliated with America use all their resources to report it, while millions of Kurdish people, Iraqi people—Shia and Sunni—are all homeless, hiding in mountains in the winter. We must not deceive ourselves by thinking that the wife of Mitterrand has come to sympathize with them, that she has done such and such in Orumiyeh and is going to Piranshahr. What can a woman of Jewish extraction do for the Muslims? Or an English woman, who appeared on these very television sets, the day before yesterday? What are these women doing in Iran? We must be wary of their conspiracies. We must stand firm against them and disgrace them. Because of them and their weapons, Iraqi missiles attacked the Iranian people. It was at their behest that Iraq was destroyed by tanks and artillery obtained from America and the Soviet Union, making people homeless, destroying the shrine of the lord of the pious, his holiness Abu al-Fazl-al-'Abbas. We should not regard them as our saviours, but regard them with antipathy. In a nutshell we must spit in their faces, telling them: You were the ones who masterminded these scenes for us. You, who for the sake of satisfying and strengthening Israel, for the sake of strengthening the puppet Government of Israel, are trying to impose such issues on the Iraqi, Turkish, and Iranian nations. You are known to everyone. Once upon a time, there was a power balance against America called the Soviet Union, which has now also fallen. America thinks it is an unrivaled power in the political world of the Middle and the Far East, and that the people will let it get away with whatever they choose to do, silently, and with their consent. If America decides to put honey in the mouths of Muslims, you can be sure that it will be poison instead. We must pass on this fact to our people, children and wives, that America is not looking for the good of the Muslim community. In the wake of the Islamic revolution in Iran, it has turned into a poisonous snake, bent on decimating Muslims wherever they may be.

I want to say a few things about the Majles. The imam had said that the Majles is in charge of all affairs. Being in charge of all affairs is not a reference to these carpets, chairs, benches, and portraits, and so on. Majles means the people in the Majles. That is what Majles means. Some people may say that the imam was praising the Majles and not the people in it. By saying that the Majles is in charge of all affairs, he meant that the honorable Majles deputies are in charge of all affairs, and sometimes make certain decisions. If they decide to question a certain minister, something which has happened in the past, and is no big deal, some people should not become too excited, or accuse certain people of blasphemy or libel.

My point is that we should be proud of the fact that the imam had bestowed such honor on the Majles. A certain newspaper writes some nonsense, saying that some did this and some did that, and were questioned. This questioning business has always existed. One minister was questioned, but received votes, even after the questioning, while another one lost his position. Mr. Fazel was corrupted and lost his position. Another nominated minister obtained a majority of the votes. Here the deputies are free. They should under no circumstances be influenced by any trend. Yesterday, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the honorable president, expressed his approval of the Minister of Education and Training.

while he also said that the Majles has the authority to observe its rights, and that we cannot divest it of this right.

In a nutshell, the deputies can, in total freedom, make decisions regarding interpellation, and cast their votes without inhibition. The voting system is just as it has been in the past.

More on Session

LD2304123191

[Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Second Program Network in Persian at 0450 GMT on 23 April carries an announcer-read report on the 23 April Majles session in Tehran. The announcer says that the pre-agenda speakers are: Bukan Deputy Mr. Taha, Arak Deputy Mr. al-Hoseini, and Langrud Deputy Mr. Seyqali. The announcer says that Mr. al-Hoseini had allocated five minutes of his time to Qom Deputy Mr. Khalkhali.

The first speaker, Mr. Taha, devoted his speech to the plight of the Kurdish refugees in Iran, praising the Iranian people for their relief efforts.

The second speaker, Ayatollah Khalkhali, warned the government against accepting any assistance from Iran's greatest enemy, the United States. The announcer says Khalkhali severely criticizes the government for praising efforts made by such people as Mitterrand's wife—who he described as a woman of Jewish extraction—and Lynda Chalker, whom he called that English woman. He also emphasized the right of Majles to interpellate ministers, a reference to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's criticism of yesterday's Majles interpellation of the education minister.

The announcer says the third speaker Mr. al-Hoseini, who cautioned the government to beware of the conspiracy of creating a safe haven in northern Iraq, which is tantamount to imposing a partition in Iraq, an issue which threatens our national interests. Al-Hoseini also warns of establishing ties with the United States.

The last speaker, says the announcer, was Mr. Seyqali, whose speech was focused on plots hatched by global arrogance by virtue of their mass media alleging that there is discord among Iranian officials, whom they have labelled as moderates and radicals. He implored deputies to resist plots aimed at undermining their unity.

Further Reportage on Iraqi Refugee Situation

International Effort Urged

LD2404075491 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 24, IRNA—Minister of Health Dr. Reza Malekzadeh here Tuesday said Iran's health and medical facilities are not sufficient to meet the needs of some one million Iraqi refugees and, therefore, international cooperation is needed.

Dr. Malekzadeh made the remark in a meeting with the wife of the French president Ms. Danielle Mitterrand who arrived in Iran Sunday [21 April] to inspect the Iraqi refugee camps and their situation.

The minister added Iran will continue to provide the refugees with shelter and health and medical services despite its postwar problems.

He stressed that the status of the refugees calls for greater cooperation of the international community.

The minister said that Iranian hospitals in border areas are unable to handle the high number of refugees who are in urgent need of medical treatment and added setting up of a 60-bed field hospital will immensly ease the problem.

He added that antibiotics and disinfectants as well as vaccines are badly needed in the camps.

The Iranian minister also lauded the relief aid donated by the French government and nation.

Ms. Mitterrand who chairs the 'Foundation France-Liberte' and visited several Iraqi refugee camps in Sunday and Monday, pledged to campaign for more aid for the refugees upon her return to Paris.

International Response Criticized

LD2304175791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Members of the West Azarbaijan Province crisis headquarters met last night, in the presence of the Interior Minister Nuri-Hoseynabadi, at the Governor General's Office to study Iraqi refugee issues. During the meeting, the interior minister expressed satisfaction with the work done by local officials to house and provide for the essential needs of the refugees.

According to a Central News Unit report, during the meeting the managing director of the province's hygiene, treatment, and medical training department, noted that more than 200,000 cartons of milk were distributed to Iraqi refugees during the last 15 days and expressed regret at the indifference of international organizations and countries in response in the face of this great tragedy. He said: So far, the total cartons of milk donated by international sources to feed the Iraqi children, has not exceeded 10,000. When 80 percent, and in some instances 100 percent, of our hospital facilities are placed at the disposal of the Iraqi refugees, the rich countries of the world have only dispatched to the region small medical teams and large filmmaking teams for propaganda purposes.

EC Delegation Arrives

LD2404100891 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 24, IRNA—The European Community (EC) will start relief operations as of Wednesday to be carried out by the Belgian militarymen.

A 37-member EC delegation led by Luxembourg's First Deputy Foreign Minister Georges Wohlfart arrived in Orumiyeh, capital of West Azerbaijan Province, Tuesday [23 April] and four planes carrying EC's medical supplies landed there. During the talks between Wolhfart and Iran's Deputy Interior Minister Mohammad Atriyan-Far in Orumiyeh agreements were reached on ways of distributing and channelling the EC relief aid.

After the talks, a West Azerbaijan provincial official said Iran had made it clear that it needed between dlrs. 10 to 13 million to provide the necessary facilities for some one million Iraqi refugees.

The EC delegation inspected five refugee camps in Orumiyeh Tuesday where the EC relief operations are to start today.

Security Council on Situation

LD2304170391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council held a session this evening, chaired by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and attended by the members of the council, political advisors of the president, and high-ranking military commanders. In the course of this session, the latest situation of the region and particularly the grave and serious problems of the Iraqi refugees were reviewed. In view of the negligible foreign aid received so far, it was stressed that international and popular assistance must increase at a serious rate, and it is necessary to prepare the grounds for the return of the refugees to their places of residence as soon as possible.

Status in Dezful Reviewed

NC2404102791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Apr 91

[By unidentified Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent in Ahvaz—date not given]

[Text] More than 8,000 Iraqi Muslim refugees have been provided housing in the Ashraf Esfahani township camp in Dezful, according to the governor general of Dezful. In an interview the governor said: Since the refugees' arrival into our Islamic homeland from the southern areas, this governorate—with the cooperation of the relevant departments and the assistance by the people of Dezful—has initiated relief operations for the Iraqi refugees. Currenlty 8,000 refugees have been provided with facilities such as foodstuffs, water, power, medical treatment, and health facilities. He added: In order to ensure the delivery of foodstuffs and other requirements to the refugees, 100 million rials has been spent on this camp which had been allocated by the governorate of Khuzestan's funds. The governor said he appreciates the assistance the Dezful residents have provided to the refugees and called on international organizations to meet the refugees' daily needs and all other requirements.

'Catastrophe' Warned

LD2304134591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Report by unidentified Central News Unit reporter from Bakhtaran Province—recorded]

[Text] So far more than 400,000 oppressed Iraqi women, children, and men refugees have been housed in 21 camps in Bakhtaran Province. The official in charge of the refugee crisis headquarters of Bakhtaran Province stated this in an interview. He added: At the moment, 152,000 of these refugees have been given shelter in four camps in Paveh township; 149,000 in the four camps set up in Pol-e Zahab township; 64,000 in the four camps in Javanrud; and 35,000 in the two camps in Gilan-e Gharb. Over 9,000 other refugees have been housed in one camp in the Qasr-e Shirin township. Currently over 200,000 of these refugees are living in very small tents and, in spite of having access to health care facilities and wholesome food, they are undergoing hardships.

Concerning the state of refugees who are without shelter in Bakhtaran Province, he added: The aid from international organizations for these refugees has been negligible so far. Bearing in mind the approach of the hot weather and the outbreak of contagious diseases in the region, if health care facilities such as field baths, hospitals, ambulances, vaccinations, and cold storage for food are not supplied or provided, then we will witness a great catastrophe in the near future.

Meanwhile, in the course of the past two days, more than 2,000 Iraqi refugees have entered Iranian territory via the Nowsud and Javanrud borders. They were taken to the camps in Javanrud township. It is reported that, through the efforts of the relief workers of the environmental organization of Bakhtaran Province, 500 refugee women and children who were separated from their families in the course of their exodus, have now been identified and returned to their families.

Commentary Criticizes Silence Over Southern Iraq

NC2304193991 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] As conditions in southern Iraq deteriorate daily, we find the world news media focusing entirely on conditions in northern Iraq. One report after another is disseminated about the displaced Iraqi Kurds and the negotiations their leaders are holding with the Iraqi regime.

The destructive civil war in Iraq—only part of which is being reported by the world mass media in a manner that falls far short of showing the full ramifications of the disaster—is a result of a conflict of interest among the powers which care about nothing but ways to consolidate their hegemony and safeguard their economic interests.

An entire people is threatened with annihilation in the midst of this great calamity. The appalling scenes of displaced Muslim Iraqis, Arabs, and Kurds alike, touch the human conscience, but these scenes are presented mainly in lifeless television and press reports. Meanwhile, the countries of the world, like the international organizations, have failed to adopt the necessary stand or display the proper reaction.

The silence by Arab and Muslim heads of state pains us now more than ever. They remain content to be mere spectators of the inhuman incidents taking place in Iraq. Northern Iraq has turned into a graveyard for innocent women and children.

The disaster is compounded when we observe the deliberate silence adopted by world mass media on the crimes the Iraqi regime is committing in the south. This regime sheds the blood of oppressed Muslim Iraqis every minute in al-Basrah, al-Tannumah, al-Nasiriyah, al-'Amarah, and all other southern cities, but no international organization and no world state has raised its voice to defend them.

The double standards used by international circles in similar incidents sheds light on certain realities for the people of the world. When a small number of Western nationals were subjected to pressure by the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, Western countries made a great fuss and urged the whole world to confront the Baghdad regime. Today, thousands of people are being killed, displaced, or maimed everywhere, but these circles seem not to hear or see it. They have turned a deaf ear.

All this is taking place under the nose of troops from the United States and allied countries, which speak repeatedly of defending man and establishing his rights. What is the reason for this?

The failure of politicans in the United States and leaders of international organizations to adopt the correct stand and show the proper reaction can only be interpreted as a means of protecting major political and economic interests. Seeking to protect the dictatorship of the Iraqi Ba'th party, to which the American authorities themselve have alluded, serves that purpose. Such behavior, however, will only lead to the continuation of the massacres against the sons of the innocent Iraqi people. Islamic and human duty makes it incumbent on Muslim states, other countries, and international public opinion to make concerted efforts at all levels to save the Iraqi people from their disastrous ordeal.

The Muslim Iranian people have mustered all their resources to render humanitarian assistance to their brother Iraqis out of sympathy with the plight of the oppressed. The Iraqi people, however, must decide their fate for themselves, without any intervention from any party. The vague double standards adopted by major states and international organizations will only aggravate this crisis. Any act that seeks to achieve political gain from the prevailing conditions will not serve the interests and well-being of mankind.

Official Condemns U.S. Moves in North Iraq

LD2304181191 Tehran IRNA in English 1102 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] New Delhi, April 23, IRNA—Head of Iran's Islamic Propagation Organization, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati in a press conference here on Tuesday flayed U.S. attempts at creating areas of influence in northern Iraq in the name of helping out the Kurds, who have been at the receiving end of Saddam's brutality.

The ayatollah who is also a member of the Guardians Council and experts assembly maintained that there were greater political implications to the latest American move than meets the eye.

Demanding withdrawal of the U.S. troops from the region, he accused both the Iraqi and Saudi Arabian Governments not only of betrayal of faith and the region but also of having provided the United States with an excuse to intervene directly in the affairs of the region.

Ayatollah Jannati who arrived here Friday, expressed belief that Saddam Husayn would not be able to cling on to power, notwithstanding American support to him.

He urged the international community to provide all help to the millions of people who have fled Iraq in the wake of the terror unleashed on them by the Iraqi Government. He said that the Iranian hospitals were overflowing with innocent victims of the Iraqi crackdown following the Persian Gulf war.

Asked about the fate of Iraqi planes which had sought shelter in Iran during the of the Persian Gulf war, the ayatollah said that Iran did not covet the property of others. He however, emphasized that the planes would be returned provided the Iraqi Government does not misuse them.

KEYHAN HAVA'I Comments on Cooper Release

PM2304145091 Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian 10 Apr 91 p 8

[Editorial: "Let Us Not Allow the People's Trust To Fade"]

[Text] Finally, five years after being arrested on charges of spying for the British Government, Roger Cooper was released last Tuesday 2 April 1991.

In general, there was always a feeling that this case had political overtones, in addition to being a judicial matter. The ups and downs in relations between London and Tehran during the past five years and the subject of Cooper's release as a precondition set by London for normalizing these ties, undoubtedly added to the political flavor of the case. On the other hand, the judicial authorities' continued insistence on the fact that the issue was not political was a very delicate matter because it focused the attention of domestic and foreign analysts on the issue. Especially in the domestic sphere when one considers the history of British colonialism in our country before the revolution and the hostile position of that government toward the Islamic revolution, the importance of this issue in the minds of our people becomes clearer. It is obvious that such an extraordinarily sensitive case requires extreme care and wisdom.

Unfortunately, taking a look at the series of events connected with this issue and its final end, one must say that the actions in this regard have caused some suspicion in the sense that issues have not been discussed as much as they should have been.

There are several examples. Following the release of Kurosh Fuladi, after spending 10 years in 37 British jails, returning (home) with a eye missing, with an injured hand, and various internal problems which were caused by British "hospitality," there was a rumor that Cooper would be released in exchange for Fuladi. On 15 September 1989, the head of the judicial authorities denied these rumors in the sermon at Friday prayers saying: "Roger Cooper, the British spy, will serve his sentence in an Iranian jail."

Every listener expected to hear the length of the sentence, but this expectation was not fulfilled and this in itself caused some suspicion. There was a meeting between the highest judicial authority and Lily Cooper, one of the British spy's relatives, during which he said: "As a human being, I hope that he will soon come under Islam's pardon." This came exactly one week after his remarks at the Friday prayers and added to the suspicion. In this regard it is worth noting the conditions in which Kurosh Fuladi was held in British jails, and the fact that, after 10 years being locked up, he was not even allowed to see his mother.

Furthermore, the political tension between the two countries after the Salman Rushdie affair caused the British Government to attack and raid the homes of Iranian students resulting in their arrest and expulsion. Mehrdad Kowkabi was one such student who was arrested in December 1989 and held hostage following a meeting of solidarity against the book *The Satanic Verses*, which was held in 1,000 British mosques. There were continuous delays in taking his case to court and issuance of a final verdict. This once again made the Cooper case a delicate issue. There were once again assurances that Cooper would spend his jail term in Iran, again rejecting any suspicion of a deal in this regard. Even when the British Government freed Kowkabi for a nonexistent reason—like the reason for his original arrest—saying that there were not enough witnesses in court, these assurances were once again mentioned by Iranian judicial officials when questioned on the issue.

Eventually, less than one month after Kowkabi's release, there was a statement from the judicial authorities, a few lines long, printed in the morning newspapers on 3 April telling the public about Cooper's release. Following the announcement of the news, the personal assistant to the head of the judicial authorities in a telephone conversation with KEYHAN newspaper quoted Ayatollah Yazdi as saying: 'There was no political deal with regard to Roger Cooper's release. In order that he would not have to spend one hour more than his sentence in Iran, he has been expelled from the country immediately.'

In reply to a question on the length of Roger Cooper's sentence, and the reason why this has so far not been announced, he said: "The length of the sentence was about five years.' This was not announced previously because of matters relating to the national interest...."

At London airport, however, Roger Cooper made some very suspicious remarks about his release. "When they were taking me to the airport, I asked them if I was still a prisoner at Evin and they said that my court hearing had been suspended. I thought they had expelled me." Cooper added: "I really do not know the conditions of my release. I do not know whether I have been pardoned or whether I have served part of my prison term."

In any case, Roger Cooper's file is now closed. What has been said here is not to say that he should have been executed or that he should still be in jail. This article does not even intend to discuss the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its quality—even though there is much to say on that subject.

The discussion here is on keeping and increasing the people's trust in the country's officials. If actions are such that this people's trust fades, that will undoubtedly be the biggest blow delivered against the regime.

Interior Minister on Merger of Security Forces

LD2004135991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0740 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] We wish success for the commanders and the serving and self-sacrificing personnel of the new force and invite you dear listeners to pay attention to the statements of Hojjat-ol Eslam Nuri-Hoseynabadi, the honorable minister of the interior, made in the presence of domestic journalists. These cover the needs and ways of the merger of the three forces into one.

[Begin Nuri recording] If I were to trace the historical course of the merger of the forces, I must say this: There was a very serious debate on a very high level in the country for a long time on the need to merge duplicate organizations; the Majles was keen on the topic.

Here one of the topics concerned the security forces. It was said that we had three major organizations and several smaller organizations that performed somewhat the same sort of duties. That is, the Islamic Revolution Committee, gendarmerie, and the police of the Islamic Republic of Iran were three major outfits that performed, in principle, security work and among them there were different units, such as the judicial police, and various security guards that were set up for various ministries. They had all shouldered security responsibilities. [passage omitted] They sometimes had some kind of division of labor among themselves. For instance, the police were responsible for urban security while the gendarmerie was responsible for the countryside. That too was no longer applicable because of the expansion of urbanism. In Tehran, for instance, many areas were under the jurisdiction of the gendarmerie. Then there was division of labor based on subject-matter. For instance, narcotics or the campaign against vice and inspection of public houses were under the responsibility of the Islamic Revolution Committee, while the police used to have their own field.

Neither subject could justify separate forces nor could the geographic distinction define differences of duties. Meanwhile, various outfits had set up small or relatively small armed forces by themselves to provide for their own security needs. I referred to the judicial police; there were other armed units such as those for the Ministry of Petroleum, for the Customs, Ports, and Navigation Authority, and so on.

The start of the earnest review of the integration of the law enforcment forces, the consideration of the expediency of the law enforcement force, and the review of that force could answer the requirements of the people. This began when the president, His Excellency Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, received a decree from his eminence, the imam, may God be satisfeid with him, to embark on the serious task regarding the debate on concentrating the armed forces and preventing haphazard expansions, and necessary integration. He charged me with following this matter.

There were numerous, wide-ranging meetings, in which experts from all three military organizations and the Revolution Guards Corps, as well as officials of the Interior Ministry, participated. On the whole, in the same comprehensive and extensive reviews, we came to the conclusion that the law enforcement forces had no choice but to integrate and create a unified force. After I came to the Interior Ministry, the matter was pursued in earnest and was sent to the respected government in the form of a bill and ultimately was approved by the government and sent to the respected Majles.

Move To Impeach Education Minister Criticized

LD2304221591 Tehran IRNA in English 1833 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 23, IRNA—A demand by some parliamentarians for impeachment of Education Minister Mohammad Ali Najafi has drawn criticism from Najafi's supporters.

The Majles (Islamic Consultative Assembly) called for Najafi's impeachment on April 20 on various charges including "mismanagement" and appointment of "incompetent personnel" at the ministry.

Najafi is to appear before the Majles Wednesday to explain the charges against him.

According to an opinion poll published by the Persian daily RESALAT today, educationalists and teachers appear divided on the move to impeach Najafi, with the minister's supporters calling the demand "unjust".

The Islamic Association of Teachers has voiced support for Najafi, and said that his impeacehment may undermine President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's 20 month old government.

Najafi is the second cabinet minister to be interpellated by the Majles. Two month ago, Health Minister Dr. Iraj Fazel was impeached and given a vote of no-confidence by the Majles, which has the right to monitor the performance of the ministers, and question them on any shortcomings seen on their part regarding public affairs.

In a meeting with education officials here last week, the president voiced support for Najafi and lauded his services.

Assadollah Badamchian, an advisor to the head of judiciary, in a speech to the Islamic Association of Businessmen Monday backed Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet and criticized the Majles for its moves to impeach another cabinet minister.

Timing Questioned

LD2404103591 Tehran IRNA in English 0527 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 24, IRNA—The Persian Daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Wednesday editorialized on the interpellation of Education Minister Mohammad 'Ali Najafi who is to respond to charges against him in the Majles open session today saying that it will be another setback for the cabinet of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The paper wrote that if the Majles move ends in resignation of the minister it will deal another blow on President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's administration and if Najafi secures vote of confidence from the deputies, the question is who will be next.

A group of Majles deputies on April 15 brought Najafi's performance under question charging him among other

things with mismanagement, appointment of incompetent directors and disrespecting regulations and provisions of the Constitution.

The paper said it would have been better if the deputies had studied the case through those in the ministry and based their judgement on the findings. The issue calls for careful study especially that the timing is highly crucial since the academic year is approaching the end.

JOHMURI-YE ESLAMI added that the timing to raise the issue was not appropriate. "The deputies have chosen the worst conditions to raise the issue."

UN Official Arrives for Talks on Afghan Problem

NC2104060091 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] The UN secretary general's representative for Afghan affairs arrived in Tehran last night with a solution that includes the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Afghanistan.

Asked if he has brought a new political solution to the Afghanistan problem, Mr. Sevan said that after years the international community and the United Nations have concluded something that was originally endorsed by the Islamic Republic of Iran: That the Afghan people should participate in any kind of peace talks.

On the reason for the failure of the quadripartite talks in Geneva, Mr. Sevan said that the nonparticipation of the Afghan people's representatives—that is, the same thing that was propounded and emphasized by Iran—was the reason for this failure.

Mr. Sevan also extended the UN secretary general's gratitude for the Islamic Republic's assistance to the Afghan refugees, as well as for the way Iran approaches the need for a comprehensive and effective political solution for Afghanistan. He said: International forums have been completely inattentive to Iran's hosting of 2 million Afghan refugees; an important task for the United Nations is to inform the world of Iran's role in granting refuge to these people and to attract international assistance to help them.

Meets With Deputy Minister

LD2104192291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] Sevan, the UN secretary general's special envoy for Afghanistan and UN coordinator for humanitarian and economic aid to the people of Afghanistan, this morning met with Mottaki, deputy minister for international affairs, at our country's Foreign Ministry. At this meeting, Mottaki stressed the need for a just solution to the Afghan problem on the basis of the interests of the Muslim people of that country. He then declared that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to cooperate with UN plans to establish the necessary conditions and prepare the grounds for the voluntary return of Afghan refugees. He also talked about the Islamic Republic of Iran's capacities for carrying out development projects inside Afghanistan with the cooperation of the United Nations. Sevan expressed appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Iran for having attended to the affairs of Afghan refugees in Iran. He stressed that the solution to the problem of refugees and their voluntary return is impossible without international assistance. He expressed the hope that the United Nations may be able to arrive at a comprehensive and just solution to end the long crisis of Afghanistan.

[Tehran IRNA in English at 1802 GMT on 21 April adds in a Tehran-datelined report: "Mottaki said that international organizations should feel more responsible towards the two million plus Afghan refugees in Iran. He said international help in that respect is scanty."]

Khamene'i Addresses Cultural Attaches

LD2304165291 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1600 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i, today received the Iranian cultural attaches abroad, led by Minister of Islamic Culture and Guidance Mr. Khatami-Ardakani. Addressing the guests, the leader described as a very significant task the cultural activities designed to introduce to other countries the message of the Islamic revolution and propagate its achievements and values.

The leader stated that although the revolution's enemies have launched a large-scale poisonous propaganda campaign against it, there are many freedom-loving nations and revolutionary forces in the world that have kept their belief in the Islamic Republic of Iran and remained faithful to its principles.

Issues Guidelines

LD2404090191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, in a meeting this morning with the Minister of Islamic Culture and Guidance and the cultural representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad, offered guidelines on the importance of cutural activity and the representation of the revolution's message to the world people as an irrefutable Islamic principle. He called on the state's cultural representatives abroad to make a correct assessment of the status quo and what is expected by the Islamic government regarding cultural issues.

During the meeting, the leader of the Islamic revolution stressed the need for a reappraisal [baznegari] and exact assessment of what must be undertaken regarding cultural issues, and added: In the present world situation the nations are thirsty for spiritual and pious words. Despite all the enmity of the ugly faces of the world, such

as the arrogance, reaction, and gold-hoarders, which are used against the tendency toward faith and religion—especially Islam—the echoing, sincere, and strong call of our Islamic revolution and the late Imam has created a place and has a real and relatively deep effect in the hearts of nations—especially the Islamic nations.

Noting that the message of Islam and the revolution has penetrated the whole world and has captured the hearts of millions of human beings, he graciously said: No school, thought, personality, or idea exists in the world which enjoys a similarly suitable ground as does the revolution, the imam, and our nation. Within the last 12 years, our publicity establishments, following the influence of the message of the revolution, have used their efforts toward organizing and deepening it. Today there is a belief that we must increase our efficiency and, by comparing the status quo with what it should be, understand the deficiencies and shortcoming and investigate them carefully and without execution.

The leader of the Islamic revoluton then turned the attention of the cultural representatives abroad to certain deficiencies which may exist in furthering their task, and cautioning them against neglecting their duties. He graciously said: Our policy is dependent on our culture and the outward, evident face of the revoution is a cultural one. Our culture is forged by our history, school, and revolution. Therefore, with this tremendous claim, the people expect much from us which must be fulfilled and we must take the elimination of deficiencies seriously.

The leader pointed out the need for the cultural representatives of the Islamic Republic abroad to have piety, revolutionary vision, thought, and culture. He added: Despite all the opposition to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the existence of poisoned propaganda resulting from the deep animosity of the arrogance camp against Islam, the enlightened world nations and forces believe in and are loyal to the Islamic Republic. Therefore, if the nations feel that we have used every effort to make contact with them, their hearts will be with us and their hopes will be increased daily.

HIs Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed the need to observe the official policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran's cultural representatives abroad as a crucial duty and graciously said: The organizations and systems which have taken upon themselves such a great task must be the symbol [mazhar] of cohesion, and those who are members of the system must reflect its official view and show the unity of the system in practice.

The leader finally described the cultural task in the outside world as a weighty and rewarding mission and called for the more efficient and wiser furthering of cultural affairs. [passage omitted]

President Receives Nigerian Petroleum Minister

LD2304204591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Nigerian Petroleum Resources Minister Jibril Aminu. In the meeting, attended by the petroleum minister, Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i; the Nigerian minister, submitted a message from his country's president, Mr. Babangida, to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani: The Islamic Republic of Iran's stance during the Persian Gulf crisis and its special efforts to bring about peace in the region is supported by all African state leaders. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, expressing thanks for the kind message from the Nigerian president, said: I thank you for your sympathetic remarks regarding the Islamic community, and we expect Mr. Babangida—taking into consideration his glorious past—to have more extended cooperation with us for the realization of the Islamic objectives pursued by Iran and Nigeria. The president added: Efforts must be made to protect the territorial integrity of Iraq, and to ensure that foreign forces, which have an expansive presence in the region, leave.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to the issue of Iraqi refugees who have sought asylum in Iran, said: We must endeavor to end the tyranny against the people of Iraq because they have been beset by problems of war for years, and now they are being massacred by their own government. The president said: On many occasions in the past we have told the Iraqis that we want to live in peace with them, but we cannot remain indifferent to the slaughter of the Iraqi people. We called on them to respect the demands of their people. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We are against Iraq submitting to foreign demands, but also against Iraq massacring the Iraqi people. This is against Islamic principles and the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the moment, these are our problems rather than those we endure for the sake of the refugees. At the same time we do not seek to interfere in that country's internal affairs.

Finally, the president, welcoming the expansion of ties between the two countries, requested the Nigerian petroleum resources minister to send his regards to Mr. Babangida.

Predicts Increased Oil Production

LD2304203791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] This morning at a meeting between the petroleum minister and his Nigerian counterpart, the expansion of ties, economic relations, and oil cooperation between the two countries were discussed. Our country's petroleum minister, noting that next year the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to increase its oil production to 5 million barrels per day, described the highly favorable and expanding situation of our country's oil industry.

Nigeria's oil minister, expressed the desire of his country to expand ties, and termed the two countries' ties as useful and constructive.

Economic Statistics for 1989-90 Reviewed

LD2004235791 Tehran IRNA in English 1348 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Oil exports totalling 770.8 billion rials formed 24.2 percent of the total government revenues (rials 3181.5 billion) in 1368 calendar year (ended March 20, 1990), up by 15.4 percent as compared with the preceding year.

Of the said amount rials 651.3 billion was earned from crude oil exports, rials 98.5 billion from crude oil exports for the imports of oil products, and rials 21 billion from black oil exports.

The oil revenues fell short of the target rials 900 billion, predicted in the law for the first five-year plan, by 14.4 percent (rials 129.2 billion).

Statistics say the average crude oil production in 1368 was 2,924,000 barrels per day, of which 829,000 barrels were sent to the domestic refineries, and the rest pumped into the terminals for export.

The oil production and exports marked a daily increase of 36,000 and 52,000 barrels respectively as compared with the corresponding figures predicted in the budget law for 1368, while a decrease of daily 16,000 barrels is seen in the crude oil pumped into the domestic refineries.

The foreign exchange earnings from the oil exports was dlrs. 11,672.3 million in 1368, up by some dlrs. 442.3 million compared with the figures predicted in the budget law.

The average price of the crude oil was reported to be dlrs. 16.7 per barrel, which is some dlrs. 1.7 more than the price predicted in the budget law for 1368.

Meanwhile, government tax revenues amounted to rials 1,187.9 billion in 1368, showing a rise of 20.4 percent as compared with the preceding year.

The tax share in the total government revenues which reached its peak (57.5 percent) in 1365 (ended March 20, 1987), dropped to 46.5, 47, and 37.7 percent respectively in the following years.

On the other hand the ratio of the tax revenues to the current expenditures which had a declining trend in 1365, 1366, and 1367, rose from 29.1 percent in 1367 to 35 percent in 1368.

A comparison between the actual tax revenues and those predicted in the budget law in the fiscal year 1368 reveals a 15.5 percent (rials 217.8 billion) reduction, however, the revenues show an increase of 3.3, percent (some rials 37.9 billion) as compared with the amount stated in the law for the first five year plan (rials 1,150 billion).

Government's miscellaneous revenues rose by 175.1 percent to rials 1,222.8 billion in 1368 up by rials 221.4 billion (2.1 percent) compared with the predicted amount in the budget law, and by rials 122.7 billion (11.2 percent) compared with the amount stated in the first five-year plan law.

The current payments of the government's general budget in 1368 totalled rials 3,395.6 billion, with a slight increase of rials 1.2 billion compared with the preceding [words indistinct].

Defence sector's payments took rials 499.5 billion of the amount and the rest (rials 2,896.1 billion) went to other current expenditures. The share of the total current expenditures of the government in 1368 was some 76.6 percent, showing an outstanding drop compared with the previous year (80.6).

The government's development payments for 5,678 provincial plans and 1,242 national plans reached rials 1,037 billion in the year, up by 27 percent as compared with 1367. The payments were 98.6 percent and 101.9 percent more than what had been predicted in the budget law, and the first five-year plan law respectively.

The total development plans in 1368 was 6,920, in the framework of which 39,193 projects (34,289 provincial projects, and 4,904 national projects) had been on foot during the year.

Public education and agriculture in the budget law with 9,419 projects and 6,948 projects respectively, had the highest shares in the budget, while chapters relevant to the implementation of the internal policies, and the manpower affairs with one and four projects respectively had the lowest shares in the total number of the projects.

Of the total national development plans (1,242 plans), 595 plans were allocated to the economic affairs, 523 plans to the social affairs, 105 plans to the public affairs and 19 plans to the miscellaneous development plans.

A total of 4,904 projects were underway as national plans in 1368, of which 942 projects sould have been completed by the end of 1368, however, only 94 projects (10 percent) were finished by the end of the year.

The higher education and hygienic-medical sectors with 27 projects had the highest number of completed projects. As for the ratio of accomplished projects to those to be completed, the sectors of multi-purpose extension operations with 50 percent and technical public services and statistics with 30.7 percent stood higher than other sectors.

The credits approved for national projects in the year 1368 (March 1989-March 1990) totalled rials 722.5 bn [billion] of which rials 638.9 bn was paid by the treasury.

The largest amount of credit, rials 171.9 bn, went to the roads and transportation sector. The sectors of statistics and technical public services, information and mass

media, public education, physical education and juvenile affairs, environment protection, multi-purpose extension operations, vocational training, post, communications and tourism had the highest ratio of the paid credits to the absorbed credits (100 percent).

A comparison between various executive organizations indicates that the roads and trasportation ministry with 941 projects undertook the highest number of projects and the ministry of defence and the armed forces logistics with 62.5 percent had the highest ratio of completed projects to those yet to be accomplished.

Financed by the provincial development plans fund, a total of 5,678 plans were implemented in 1368, up by 16.3 percent as compared with the previous year's figure (4,880 projects). Of the projects, 47.5 percent concerned social affairs, 43.2 percent economic affairs and 9.3 percent public affairs.

The total number of projects implemented throughout provinces in 1368 stood at 34,289 which registered a 5.4 percent increase as compared with the number of projects enforced a year before (32,533).

The number of projects accomplished in 1368 amounted to 13,672 which showed a .01 percent decrease in comparison with the projects completed in 1367 (13,681). Of the accomplished projects, 439 related to public affairs, 7,883 to social affairs, and 5,350 to economic affairs.

The credits earmarked for the provincial development plans in 1368 totalled rials 401.7 bn of which rials 354.6 billion was paid. The public education sector with 19.2 percent had the lion's share in the approved credits, followed by roads and transportation sector with 15.2 percent and urban development sector with 11 percent.

Of the 942 projects which should have been completed in 1368, only 94 projects or in other words ten percent were accomplished. The credit approved for the projects that should have been completed in 1368 totalled rials 89.9 bn, 60.4 percent of which (rials 59.7 bn) was paid by the treasury.

The considerable difference between the ratio of the paid credits to the approved credits and that of the accomplished projects to those yet to be completed (60.4 to 10 percent) indicate that not paying off the credits was not the sole reason for the projects being incomplete. Other elements were effective as well such as foreign exchange resrictions, the shortage of raw and construction materials, the non-existence of a correct time-table and mismanagement.

Of the total national projects for the year 1368, 2,530 made progress by between zero and 25 percent, 1,188 by between 26 and 75 percent and 1,186 by between 76 and 100 percent.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

82,000 Security Personnel Assigned To Election

BK2304162191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1008 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Kathmandu, April 23 (AFP)—Some 82,000 security personnel will be on hand to ensure law and order during next month's elections, Chief Election Commissioner Surya Prasad Shrestha said Tuesday.

Under a plan drawn up by the election commission, police and the army, special arrangements and deployments are already under way, he said.

"All together, 72,000 policemen and an additional 10,000 security personnel (are) being commissioned to maintain law and order for holding the May 12 general election peacefully," Mr. Shrestha said.

About 42,000 of the police will be temporary appointments, and another 65,000 civilian election workers will ensure the polls are run smoothly and fairly, he added.

"All together 1,346 persons representing 20 political parties and independent candidates are joining the May 12 election fray" as candidates, Mr. Shrestha said.

A total of 11.1 million Nepalis are eligible to vote when 205 members of the House of Representatives are chosen in Nepal's 75 districts.

"The political parties should communicate the code of conduct to their workers, and the people themselves should be conscious about how to conduct the elections in a fair manner," Mr. Shrestha said.

"Parties or candidates instigating their workers to violence would degrade themselves in the eyes of the public," he added, warning that the "sternest actions would be taken against those who commit crime in the name of the elections."

Meanwhile Tuesday, the extreme left Nepal Communist Party announced it would boycott the election, saying it was being run under a "black constitution."

Communist-Instigated Election Violence Reported

BK2104141491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1323 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] Kathmandu, April 21 (AFP)—A ruling Nepali Congress Party official was one of four people injured when Communist activists allegedly threw stones at an election campaign rally southeast of here, a party source said.

Dilip Sapkota and three others were admitted to hospital with head and hand injuries after the incident Saturday in the village of Itahari in Morang District, about 390 kilometres (245 miles) from the capital.

A party spokesman said United Marxist and Leninist Nepal Communist Party activists were among those trying to disrupt the bicycle rally.

Officials of the communist party were not available for comment.

A similar attack was allegedly made in Sunsari District by other communists against candidates of the pro-royalist National Democratic Party (NDP), headed by Lokendra Bahadur Chand.

The former home minister under the panchayat system, Dil Bahadur Shrestha, meanwhile, complained that Nepali Congress activists had beaten his campaigners and damaged his hired vehicle last weekend.

The Nepal Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) President, Man Mohan Adhikari, said all Nepalis should work to safeguard democracy and be watchful of people trying to disrupt the May 12 national election.

"The Nepalese people should vote for the party which can lead the country to prosperity, as the country has been weakened by the 30 years of panchayat rule," he said at a rally.

Former Minister Arrested After Factions Clash

BK2004002291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1711 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] Kathmandu, April 19 (AFP)—A former minister in the deposed panchayat government in Nepal has been arrested with 25 of his party followers after a clash which left one man dead and another injured, an official source said here Friday.

Deepak Bohara, the former minister for tourism, was arrested Thursday [18 April], the Home Ministry source said, following the clash which took place in Rupandehi, in the southeast, where he had been campaigning for the May 12 general election.

Mr. Bohara, who is standing for the National Democratic Party (NDP) headed by Lokendra Bahadur Chand, objected when a student from the Nepal Student Union tried to raise a flag belonging to the rival Nepali Congress Party. Mr. Bohara said the flag should not be displayed in his area of influence.

One of Mr. Bohara's supporters shoved the student which angered local villagers who then tried to attack the former minister and his followers.

Some of Mr. Bohara's supporters then opened fire killing one villager and wounding one of their own men, police said, adding the former minister and his supporters were arrested as they tried to drive across the nearby Indian border.

On Friday more than 7,000 pro-Nepali Congress students and local people held a protest march demanding stern action against those arrested, a Nepali Congress spokesman said.

They surrounded the Chief District Office (CDO) for several hours and later dispersed peacefully after handing a protest letter to the officer in charge of the CDO, the spokesman said.

Activists Demand Minister's Resignation

BK1904042991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1654 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Kathmandu, April 18 (AFP)—Some 3,500 people, many of them leftist activists, besieged a cement sales and distribution point at Bhrikuti Mandap in Kathmandu Wednesday [17 April], demanding the resignation of Supplies Minister Marshal Julum Shakya, sources said.

The protestors alleged that an artificial shortage of cement was being created to sell the commodity on the black market at 75 per cent profit, and complained that distribution was discriminatory.

An assistant secretary in Mr. Shakya's ministry, Raghubar Man Singh, was forced to pledge in writing to the demonstrators that he would place all their 13 demands before the authorities, including the resignation of the minister.

The protestors also called for public information on the amount of cement imported and produced locally, a guarantee that cement would be weighed before sale, action against black marketeers and checks on the quality of cement imported from India before pricing.

They also demanded dismissal of dealers for allegedly selling short weight cement.

NC Chief: Attempts Afoot To Undermine Polls

BK1604151491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1450 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Kathmandu, April 16 (AFP)—Nepal Congress [NC] Leader Ganesh Man Singh warned Tuesday that political groups were trying to undermine the May 12 elections, state radio reported.

Radio Nepal quoted Mr. Singh as saying regressive elements were trying to undermine the election and weaken the foundations of democracy in Nepal.

"We should commit ourselves to conducting the elections peacefully to fulfill the dreams of the martyrs," Mr. Singh, who was campaigning in Nepal's lowland tropical region, said.

Demonstrations in March and April last year, during which more than 500 people were killed, forced the end of the one-party Panchayat system of government and a promise of elections.

In the capital, the leader of the Mashal faction of the Nepal Communist Party, Mohan Bikram Singh, led a demonstration calling for a boycott of the general election.

The call follows similar demands for a boycott by Chitra Bahadur, the leader of another communist party faction, who has said that the elections should not be held under the current constitution because it was not drawn up by an elected assembly.

"So long as the country's constitution has not been drafted by an elected assembly it would not fulfill the people's aspirations and the king's sovereignty would never be transferred to the public," Mr. Bahadur said at a rally.

Pakistan

Kashmir Issue To Be on UNGA Session's Agenda

BK2204165691 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] The Kashmir issue will be a part of the Pakistani agenda at the UN General Assembly session in New York later this year. In an interview to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas Sardar Mehtab Ahmed Khan said that Pakistan's concern would be brought to the notice of the UN General Assembly by the Pakistani delegation's leader in his address to the world body. The minister elaborated that the UN resolutions are binding on the members of the world body, but the India, overlooking these resolutions, has been committing genocide against the Kashmiri people.

Sharif Reaffirms Stand, Support

BK2304151691 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] The prime minister has reiterated Pakistan's principled stand on the Kashmir issue and pledged his government's continued support for the just struggle of the Kashmiris. This was conveyed by Nawaz Sharif during meetings with a group of Kashmiri leaders who called on him separately in Islamabad today. The prime minister appreciated the Kashmiri leaders' commitment to hold free and fair elections in the state. The Kashmiri leaders assured the prime minister that they would continue their efforts to uphold democracy and democratic values. Nawaz Sharif assured the Azad Jammu and Kashmir government of all possible assistance. The Kashmiri leaders congratulated the prime minister on the historic agreement among the provinces on sharing of national resources under the aegis of the National Finance Commission.

European Parliament Decision Lauded

BK2304110291 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] The European Parliament has strongly condemned India for exploiting human rights in occupied Kashmir. The parliament passed a resolution unanimously condemning Indian forces for the ill-treatment of women in a Kashmiri village and has demanded that forces responsible for the incident be punished following an unbiased investigation of the incident. The resolution has emphasized that officials in occupied Kashmir should respect international agreements on human rights and foreign ministers of member countries have been requested to fully condemn human rights violations and Indian atrocities. Appreciating the resolution in Islamabad, a foreign office spokesman said it has justified Pakistan's stand on Kashmir concerning large-scale human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. He said the resolution discloses that the international community is extremely worried about the worsening human rights situation in occupied Kashmir due to indiscriminate use of power by Indian forces. He said the government is determined to continue moral, diplomatic, and political support for the Kashmiris until the problem is solved.

The Foriegn Office spokesman said in Islamabad that the Pakistani Government and people condemn the increasing violence and atrocities of Indian forces in occupied Kashmir. Noting the killings of 16 people in Srinagar, Walenton, and Hindwara in a single day, he said the international community should react strongly to the Indian forces' atrocities against innocent civilians in occupied Kashmir. The spokesman emphasized that the Indian Government should allow international human rights organizations to investigate the exploitation of the human rights of Kashmiris in the occupied valley so humanitarian assistance can be provided for the affected Kashmiris.

'Double Standards' Seen in U.S. Nuclear Concerns

BK2004124991 Karachi DAWN in English 20 Apr 91 p 11

[Editorial: "And Now the Missile Bugbear"]

[text] For Pakistan these days the news from Washington is seldom a source of much comfort. Skepticism about Pakistan's intentions, especially in the nuclear field, runs so deep that nothing that Pakistan says, no matter now passionately or convincingly, seems to make not the slightest difference. The aid cut-off stemming from America's concern regarding Pakistan's nuclear programme is something that this country is learning to live with. But to judge by the latest reports from Washington, America is now fearful that Pakistan might get its hands on ballistic missiles. So it has told the Chinese, which is supposed to be planning to sell missiles to Pakistan, to exercise caution in this respect. This is the upshot of a recent question-and-answer session at the State Department.

While unexceptional in principle, the American commitment to combat the spread of nuclear weapons and the missiles that deliver such weapons suffers from a great deal of selectivity. Take first the case of nuclear weapons. Pakistan is only suspected of possessing them or of having the capability to produce them, while India, its next-door neighbour, is known to possess a proven

nuclear weapons capability. Indeed, if New Delhi's testing of a nuclear device in 1974 is taken into account (the so-called peaceful nuclear explosion), all doubts would be swept aside on that score. And yet there is only one Pressler Amendment that the US Congress has passed whose only target is Pakistan. Nor is this argument confined to India alone. As Pakistanis have always pointed out, Israel and South Africa are also known to be nuclear powers. Yet the United States shuts its eagle eyes to that fact, reserving all its concern and all the moral courage of which it is capable for the nuclear programme of a country like Pakistan. In doing so, it overlooks the fact that Washington had no problem about certifying Pakistan's nuclear innocence until about two years ago—the time point coinciding with the pull-out of the last Soviet soldier from Afghanistan. Apart from this perceptional metamorphosis, there is an obvious onesidedness in all of this which seriously undercuts the sincerity of American protestations about nuclear proliferation.

The same arguments apply to the latest bogey about missile proliferation. Whether Pakistan has such missiles or is only trying to procure them is beside the point. By targeting Pakistan alone and by turning a blind eye to other countries (India for one, which is rather proud of the delivery capability of its missiles), the United States succeeds only in drawing attention to its own double standards in this regard. At any rate, whatever the logical lapses from which the American position suffers, Pakistan should be under no illusion that America is going to shift its stand easily. If logic has little to do with the Pressler Amendment, it is unlikely to have much to do with this latest concern regarding missile proliferation either. Pakistan should accordingly be resigned to hearing more about this subject in future. Along with nuclear proliferation, missile proliferation looks set to become another item in the list of continuous problems that is drawing the two countries apart.

Gorbachev Asia-Pacific Forum Idea Too 'Selective'

BK2304092291 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 23 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, April 22—Commenting on President Gorbachev's recent remarks to the Japanese Diet regarding the need for a multilateral forum for Asia and the Pacific on security and cooperation, a Foreign Office spokesman while welcoming the concept, stated that Pakistan did not favour a selective approach to the issue.

It would be recalled that President Gorbachev had suggested the holding of a Summit Conference to be attended by the Soviet Union, the United States, China, India and Japan to discuss security and cooperation in Asia and the Pacific.

The Spokesman emphasised that problems of security and cooperation in Asia and the Pacific are the shared concern of all countries of the region, and their full participation in the formalation and implementation of security and cooperation measures was an essential prerequisite to their success.

A non-discriminatory and open approach ensuring the participation of all Asia-Pacific countries to address the problems of their region would also be in conformity with the tide of democratic transformation that characterises our times.

Officials Reject Kidnappers' Demand for Ransom

OW2004140491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1309 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, April 20 (KYODO)—The release of two kidnapped Japanese students has been stalled because local authorities will not accept the kidnappers' demands, provincial government sources told KYODO NEWS SERVICE on Saturday.

The abductors have demanded 10 million rupees (60 million yen) in ransom, safe passage, and the immediate suspension of security operations in the area.

In a message released April 14, they also threatened to hurt the students if a 10-day deadline for a response was not met.

The message was delivered by Ghulam Ahmad Khan, the 42-year-old Pakistani guide who was kidnapped together with the students, upon his release in the country's Southern Sind Province.

The provincial government sources said they are optimistic that the students will be released soon, adding that they are able to contact the abductors at any time through intermediaries.

Negotiations to secure the release of the two students were resumed Tuesday despite the festival held to mark the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, the sources said.

Khan was kidnapped March 17 with three students, all from Tokyo's Waseda University, at Guddu Barrage during a rafting expedition along the Indus River.

One of the students, Yoshihiro Tachikawa, 20, was later freed with a ransom note addressed to the Japanese Embassy in Islamabad.

The other two students—Takayasu Hattori, 20, and Takuya Sato, 19—are still being held in a remote area of Sindh Province.

Sri Lanka

Operations, Plans Against LTTE Reported

BK2104151091 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] Latest reports from the northern battle front state that government troops are continuing their offensive against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in the district of Mannar. Official sources told the LANKAPUVATH that nine LTTE cadres have been

killed in yesterday's fighting. The sources said the security forces were on the offensive against the LTTE in Mannar, locating terrorist targets and hitting them hard. They said that in the current offensive the LTTE has been defeated in most of the Mannar District, including in [name indistinct]. Twenty-seven terrorists were confirmed killed and more than 70 wounded in fierce fighting.

Meanwhile, the security forces have gained firm control of the coast of Mannar and continue to push further inland striking the terrorists in the thick jungles and capturing the LTTE strongholds at Parappakandanthan and (Jayansathan) after overcoming stiff enemy resistance.

The sources said government troops backed by air and artillery support destroyed a network of bunkers as they took Parappakandanthan. Terrorists had capitulated after Kilinochchi leader (Kurdin Krishi), who had brought reinforcements to Mannar, was killed by government troops. The Air Force had scored a direct hit on a truck transporting a group of LTTE terrorists, killing 15 whose bodies were later recovered by the security forces. At least 70 terrorists were wounded.

A major operation to capture Velupillai Prabhakaran, the elusive leader of the LTTE will be launched shortly, a senior military official revealed. The LTTE operational headquarters, where Prabhakaran is believed to be holed up, has been spotted in the dense jungles of (Lidhinkandy) division of Vavuniya District. Prabhakaran, who is commanding the LTTE from this jungle hideout, according to military sources, is believed to be cut off there due to the military operations conducted by the security forces. The highly fortified LTTE base is also believed to be providing security to several other top LTTE leaders. Intercepted LTTE messages have given wide clues to the security forces and helped them analyze the characteristics of the base which could be the LTTE's strongest jungle fortification. This operation, seen by defense analysts as the most vital move to break the backbone of the LTTE, was delayed for logistics reasons. A large force of men and armor are expected to be involved in this operation. This base is a [source of] pride. As long as it stands the Tigers will be there. So, it is time to destroy it along with its builders, a defense official said.

Over 1,000 'Terrorists' Killed in North, East

BK2204112591 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] The security forces have stepped up their offensive against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. The Joint Operations Command Headquarters has said that this month over 1,000 LTTE terrorists have been killed in confrontation with the armed forces in the North and East. Two hundred and eighty four Tigers were injured. Over 100 Tigers died in gun battles in the East. Over 70 of these were killed in the offensive in the Toppigala area.

A security forces communique issued to the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation says that the Tigers, who are on the run after the destruction of their bunkers, are attacking innocent villagers and killing them. Last night, the LTTE terrorists hacked to death 22 innocent villagers in (Niyamballe) in Okkampitiya. Army sources said that this village is situated 12 miles from Okkampitiya.

LTTE Said Linked to Colombian Drug Cartels

BK2304163891 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] An Indian newspaper has reported that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has forged links with the powerful Colombian drug cartel. According to the OBSERVER newspaper, the LTTE has been pledged support by the drug lords of Colombia to provide arms training. The newspaper said that they had agreed to provide this training to the terrorists in a secret hideout. In exchange, the LTTE supports [words indistinct] efforts of the drug cartel. As it is for many years now, the LTTE cadres have been involved in smuggling narcotics from India's eastern coast into Sri Lanka.

The OBSERVER newspaper report further says antinarcotics sleuths have for long considered India a prominent transit point for drug running. The proximity of northeastern Indian states, such as Nagaland and Manipur, to the Golden Triangle at the trijunction of Burma, Thailand, and Laos contribute a major share of the $300 million narcotic trade.